

Your Pet and General Anesthesia

There are certain procedures that require the use of general anesthetic such as dentistry, spaying, neutering, abdominal surgery, removing a growth or suturing a large wound. In the event your four-legged friend requires a surgical procedure, we will do everything possible to ensure a smooth and uneventful anesthesia and recovery.

- We will care for your pet as if they were one of our own!

Prior to the day of your pet's procedure:

A veterinarian will perform a thorough physical examination to ensure your pet is healthy enough for the recommended procedure. This includes chest auscultation, abdominal palpation and vital sign measurement. A pre-anesthetic blood test will also be run to check the health of vital organs which are responsible for metabolizing and excreting anesthetic drugs.

The following is what will likely occur on the day of your pet's operation:

A registered veterinary technician will weigh your pet, measure vital signs and set up the operating room for the scheduled procedure. The veterinarian will physically examine your pet again prior to surgery to verify that he/she is in good health. The medical record will be reviewed, including the blood test results and an anesthetic protocol tailored to your pet will be formulated.

After the examination, an injection of a mild sedative is given that helps relax and calm your pet as well as provide pain control. An intravenous catheter is placed and secured with a bandage and connected to an electrolyte solution that is administered by an electronic pump for the duration of the procedure.

A face mask is used to provide oxygen while an injection of short acting anesthetic is given intravenously to allow the veterinarian to place an endotracheal (breathing) tube into the airway. Then your pet is connected to the anesthetic machine that will deliver oxygen and anesthetic gas. The inhaled gas used is very safe and is used in human hospitals routinely.

A registered veterinary technician monitors your pet's vital signs throughout surgery. Anesthetic monitors are also used to measure heart rate, respiratory rate, oxygen saturation and blood pressure. A warmed air blanket is placed under your pet in the operating room to keep them warm and comfortable during the surgery.

After the surgery is finished, oxygen is given until your pet is awake at which time the breathing tube is removed. Once back in their kennel, we use blankets and micro-waved warm packs to allow for a cozy recovery.

A veterinarian will call you once the procedure is finished to give you an update and let you know that everything went well. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tour of the operating room, please do not hesitate to call us anytime.