



SFAH

Client Care Series

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SURGICAL INFORMATION GUIDE

Dear Client,

Your pet has been scheduled for a surgical procedure. To help our clients through the process, we have put together this guide to make surgery day as easy and stress-free as possible.

Please read carefully all the enclosed information. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us. On your pet's surgery day, we will ask you to review and sign an **Authorization/Treatment Plan Form** which allows you to choose optional services. We will also ask you to provide contact phone number(s) where you can **immediately** be reached.

The night before your pet's surgery...

- **Withhold all food and treats after 10:00pm. If your pet has eaten any food or treats after 10:00pm please let us know when you arrive at the hospital.**
- **Water may be left down after this time period.**
- **If you are currently administering any medications, vitamins and/or injections, withhold the morning doses unless otherwise instructed by the doctor.**

Please make arrangements for your pet to be dropped off on the morning of the scheduled surgery, unless other arrangements have been made in advance. Drop off time is between 8:00am and 8:30am. New patients will need to have a pre-surgical exam before a surgery can be scheduled. At time of drop off, our surgery nurse will be happy to answer any questions/concerns.

After your pet has been checked into the hospital and the surgical nurse has completed the pre-surgical paper work with you, your pet will be escorted to the surgical prepping area to wait for their surgery. If you have elected any of the recommended blood tests, our nurse will collect all blood samples and tests prior to surgery.

If any questions arise, the doctor may contact you at the number you have given on the Authorization Form.

You are welcome to check up on your pet's status, however, we request that you allow plenty of time for your pet's procedure to be completed. After your pet's procedure is completed the doctor will call with an update and advise you as to when your pet will be able to go home.

When you arrive to take your pet home, a client care representative will bill you out and a nurse will go over all discharge instructions verbally and give you a written copy. If you do not understand any instructions, please do not hesitate to ask the nurse to go over them one more time.

We hope surgery day will be a pleasant experience. Remember, our team knows surgery can be an anxious time and we are always available to answer any and all questions concerning the upcoming procedure.

We look forward to serving you and your pet on the upcoming surgery day and years to come.

PRE-ANESTHETIC BLOOD TESTING INFORMATION

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Our greatest concern is the well being of your pet. Before putting your pet under anesthesia, we routinely perform a full physical examination.

We also highly recommend and sometimes require that a **Pre-Anesthetic Blood Profile** be performed on all pets' undergoing anesthesia to maximize patient safety.

The **Pre-Anesthetic Blood Profile** helps alert our doctor to the presence of dehydration, anemia, infection, diabetes and/or kidney or liver disease that could complicate the procedure. These conditions may not be detected **without** a pre-anesthetic profile thus not allowing for the most appropriate and safest anesthetic regime to be administered. These tests are similar to those your own physician would run if you were to undergo anesthesia. In addition, these tests may be useful if your pet's health changes to develop faster, more accurate diagnoses and treatments.

**State of the art equipment enables us to perform the pre-anesthetic blood profile at our hospital and we are committed to making this technology available to our patients.*

The **Authorization Form** you will sign on your pet's surgery date will offer pre-anesthetic blood work.

1. **The Complete Blood Count (CBC) and Pre-Anesthetic Profile** which includes:

- **CBC:** PCV (Anemia), White Blood Cell Count (Infection) & Red Blood Cell Count (Anemia/Bleeding Disorder), Platelet Count (Clotting Disorder)
- **Profile:** BUN and Creatinine (Kidney), ALKP and ALT (Liver), Glucose (Sugar), Total Protein (Dehydration).

2. **Owner Elects to Decline** the recommended pre-anesthetic blood tests at this time but requests that we proceed with the procedure. This is indicated by **NOT** checking the optional procedures.

You will notice other tests available that are not included in the above choices. We have selected tests that give the doctors a suitable overview of healthy patients. However, if the patients are in their senior years (above 7 years old) or are sick, the **FULL** senior profile can be done the day of the procedure at the owner's request. It has been included in the high amount of the treatment plan.

On the **Feline Patient Authorization Form**, our feline owners will see a **FelV/FIV Test** option. We highly recommend this test be performed on all feline patients at least once in their lives because Feline Leukemia and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (Feline Aids) are viruses for which no cure exists. If your pet goes outside, we recommend administering the Feline Leukemia vaccine as well. Please ask questions if you would like to learn more about Feline Leukemia and Feline Aids.

We realize surgery and anesthesia are scary for both the owner and patient and we attempt to make surgery day as safe and comfortable for all involved. The physical examination and blood work done prior to any surgical procedure allows us to best minimize anesthetic and surgical risks and maximize patient safety.

If you have any questions or hesitations about the scheduled procedure, please do not hesitate to call us to discuss any aspect of the upcoming procedure.

CLIENT INITIALS _____

SURGICAL PROCEDURE INFORMATION

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Anesthetic Procedures & Risks

We use a combination of pre-anesthetic medications, injectable and/or inhalant anesthetics to achieve optimum levels of anesthesia that are safe for your pet.

For short procedures, an injectable anesthetic may be given alone that produces a good plane of surgical anesthesia with a quick recovery.

For most procedures, your pet is anesthetized and then intubated (insertion of a tube into the trachea or wind pipe). This will ensure that your pet is able to receive oxygen at all times and prevents aspiration of any fluids into the lungs.

For procedures that require minimum sedation, an injectable anesthetic is given that produces a good plane of sedation with quick recovery. Anesthesia is maintained with a gas anesthetic, Isoflurane. This allows us to have more control over anesthetic depth and it is less irritating to the airways. Another advantage to Isoflurane is a quick induction using a mask versus using injectable anesthetics that require metabolism from the body.

Monitoring & Pain Management:

Monitoring of patients during anesthesia is done in two ways. First, a surgical nurse is with your pet continuously from beginning of anesthesia to recovery.

Second, we have a computerized monitor that records heart rate, pulse rate, oxygen levels, respiration, ECG, core and rectal temperature.

The staff at SFAH strongly believes in compassionate, quality, medical care for our patients. As a result, all surgery patients will receive pain management before, during and after surgery as needed. Additionally, pain medication may be prescribed to go home with your pet. Additional information will be given at discharge. We hope this program will reduce any discomfort experienced and aid in a quicker recovery.

Intravenous Catheterization & Fluids:

The placement of an IV catheter and use of IV fluids during an anesthetic procedure will depend on your pet's health, the surgical procedure and pre-surgical testing. This allows us to support your pet during surgery and allows us to have quick, available access to the circulatory system (blood) in case of an unforeseen emergency. The fluids help provide support to the circulatory system and prevent dehydration, as well as aid in a quicker recovery from anesthesia.

Potential Surgical Complications May Include:

Bleeding, suture reaction, swelling or infection.

It is important for you to understand that there is always a risk of anesthetic and surgical complications anytime surgical procedures are performed. We strive to take the highest quality care of your pet and take all the added precautions you allow to avoid potential problems.

Thank you for entrusting your pet to us.

CLIENT INITIALS _____