

# Surgery Information Sheet

Dear Client,

Your pet will receive our very best care during their surgery day. Because this process should be as easy and stress-free as possible for you, we want you to know what to expect. Please read this information carefully and do not hesitate to ask any questions.

## To prepare:

- **Withhold all food and treats after 10:00 pm the night BEFORE surgery.**
- **Water should be available until the morning of surgery (okay to leave water out overnight but remove bowl in morning).**
- **Do not give any medications, vitamins and/or injections the morning of surgery. Instead, bring these medications with you when you drop off your pet.**
- **Discontinue any herbal supplements 3 days prior to surgery date.**

**Upon your arrival the morning of surgery**, you will review and sign a Surgery Release Form and select optional services including pre-anesthetic bloodwork, which we highly recommend—and may require in certain cases—prior to any anesthetic procedure. We will also ask you to list any known allergies and the name, dose, and frequency of all current medications. Although we already have your phone number, we will ask for the best number to contact you for the day.

**Once forms are complete**, you will have the opportunity to meet with the doctor. This time is set aside for you and the doctor to briefly discuss procedure of scheduled surgery, reiterate any relevant information, and to ensure that there are not any questions. New clients are required to be present for the pre-surgical exam in order to establish the doctor-patient-client relationship.

**Once the surgery is complete** and your pet has recovered from anesthesia (typically early afternoon), your doctor will call you with an update. We understand if you would like to call to check on your pet throughout the day, but we do request that you allow plenty of time for us to complete your pet's procedure.

**When you arrive to take your pet home**, a registered veterinary technician will:

- **Reiterate any necessary information about your pet's surgical procedure.**
- **Review any medications prescribed the day of surgery.**
- **Review the doctor's post-surgical discharge instructions with you, then provide a written copy for reference as your pet continues to recover at home.**
- **Encourage you to call if any questions arise (we are open until 9pm on surgery days).**
- **While the technician prepares your pet to leave the hospital, our receptionists will assist you with billing and answer any questions you may have.**

We are here to support you during this important time. Should questions arise while we are closed, please call REACH at 828-665-4399. We look forward to serving you and your pet on the upcoming surgery day and in the future.

# Pre-Anesthetic Blood Testing Information Sheet

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

Our greatest concern is the well being and safety of your pet. Before the doctor anesthetizes your pet, he or she will perform a full physical examination. We also highly recommend—and sometimes require—that a **Pre-Anesthetic Blood Profile\*** be performed for all pets undergoing anesthesia. This panel provides our doctors with a kind of internal “snap-shot” of the patient’s health status. The results of pre-anesthetic bloodwork help alert our surgeon to the presence of dehydration, anemia, infection, diabetes and/or kidney or liver disease. This bloodwork is similar to that your own physician would run if you were to undergo anesthesia, and enables the doctor to administer the most appropriate and safest anesthetic regimen. In addition, the baseline values provided by this panel are useful for developing faster, more accurate diagnoses and treatments in case the status of your pet’s health changes.

*\*As part of our commitment to the health and wellbeing of our patients, we offer state of the art equipment at our hospital in order to perform pre-anesthetic blood profiles.*

Each of our pre-anesthetic bloodwork panels includes a complete blood count (CBC) to assess the following:

- Packed Cell Volume (Anemia)
- White Blood Cell Count (Infection- General and/or Parasitic)
- Red Blood Cell Count (Anemia and/or Bleeding Disorder)
- Platelet Count (Clotting Disorder)

The bloodwork panels consist of levels to assess additional values depending upon your pet’s age, overall health, or recommendations from your pet’s doctor:

- **Pre-anesthetic Panel, 0-2 years:** CBC, creatinine, glucose, and total protein
- **Pre-anesthetic Panel, 2-7 years:** CBC, blood urea nitrogen (BUN), creatinine, glucose, alanine transaminase (ALT), alkaline phosphatase (ALP), total protein and albumin
- **Pre-anesthetic Panel, >7 years:** CBC, blood urea nitrogen (BUN), creatinine, glucose, ALT, ALP, total protein, albumin, total bilirubin and urinalysis

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us to discuss any aspect of your pet’s upcoming procedure.

# Anesthesia Information Sheet

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

## Anesthetic Procedures & Risks

**There is always a risk of anesthetic and surgical complications. However, the doctors and staff at Charlotte Street Animal Hospital take every precaution to avoid potential problems. Allowing us to perform pre-anesthetic bloodwork is one of the most effective ways you can help reduce the risk associated with anesthesia.**

We use a combination of pre-anesthetic medications/injectables and/or inhalant anesthetics (Isoflurane or Sevoflurane) to achieve optimum and safe levels of anesthesia.

**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 pre-medicated, then anesthetized and intubated (an airway is created by inserting a tube into the trachea, or "wind pipe"). This will ensure that your pet is able to receive oxygen at all times, as well as preventing aspiration of any fluids into the lungs.

**For procedures that require minimum sedation** an injectable anesthetic produces a good plane of sedation without causing complete anesthesia, and offers a quick recovery. This type of sedation can help us perform procedures that might cause anxiety or be mildly painful. After the procedure has been completed, we can reverse the drug with another injection and, within minutes, the patient is able to walk out the door.

## Intravenous Catheterization & Fluids

We highly recommend—and often require—the placement of an IV catheter and use of IV fluids during all anesthetic procedures. Catheterization allows us quick access to the circulatory system in case of an unforeseen emergency. The fluids help provide support to the circulatory system, maintain blood pressure, and prevent dehydration, as well as aid in a quicker recovery from anesthesia.

## Monitoring & Pain Management

We monitor our patients during anesthesia in two ways:

1. The doctor is accompanied by a registered veterinary technician and fully-trained veterinary assistant who support your pet continuously from before anesthesia to post-surgical recovery.
2. A digital monitor records the patient's heart rate, pulse rate, oxygen levels, respiration, ECG (electrocardiogram), blood pressure, and core and rectal temperature. All of these vital functions are continually monitored by the doctor's support team listed above.

Compassionate, quality medical care for every patient is the driving force of our mission. Our thorough pain-management protocol functions to ease any discomfort and helps aid a more rapid recovery. All surgery patients receive pain management before, during, and after surgery. Additionally, pain medication is typically prescribed to go home. Additional information regarding monitoring for signs of pain in your recovering pet will be provided at the time of discharge.

**Thank you for entrusting your pet to us. We are honored to partner with you in contributing to your pet's health and happiness!**