



BOWRAL VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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PRE SURGICAL INFORMATION SHEET

Things to know about surgery and dentistry for your pet

No one likes the thought of their pet under going surgery but there are certain problems and routine procedures which require surgical intervention. We understand that you may be concerned. There have been many recent advances in veterinary medicine and surgery. Diagnostics, anaesthesia, monitoring and surgical techniques have been developed to help ensure your pets recovery.

Pre surgical testing

Pre-operative testing is often recommended to help us uncover any problems not readily apparent. These tests may include blood tests (blood cell counts and blood chemistry), urinalysis, X-rays and electrocardiogram. Any abnormalities detected may need to be corrected prior to surgery or may merely indicate a change in the choice of anaesthetic or pre-surgical treatment. In this way we can minimise surgical and anaesthetic risk. Your veterinary surgeon will advise what testing may be appropriate for your pet.

Pain relief

Your pet feels pain just as much as you do. Pain and inflammation has been shown to delay healing and recovery after surgery. Also, when dogs are in pain they are less likely to want to eat and drink, thus limiting necessary nutrients to speed healing. All surgeries at Bowral Veterinary Hospital receive opioid pain relief as standard. Your vet will discuss with you whether your pet requires additional ongoing pain relief following the procedure. For procedures such as desexing, this pain relief is offered for a reduced supplementary fee.

Standards of quality

As we seek to provide high standards of quality veterinary care, we use many of the same anaesthetic agents that are used in human surgery. Surgery is performed with the highest standards of sterility and your pet's heart, lungs and other vital functions are closely monitored by a dedicated qualified veterinary nurse. We may recommend fluid therapy for some patients and a decision is made for each individual patient based on their needs.

Pre surgery instructions

- Please give no food after 8pm the evening before surgery and take water away one-hour before admission. **No treats and no cheating!** An empty stomach is critical for safe anaesthesia. **DO NOT HOWEVER** restrict food or fluids for rabbits and other small mammals.
- If your pet is taking medication, give the normal dosage at the usual time unless otherwise directed. If your pet is diabetic, please ask the veterinary surgeon for special instructions.
- Surgical patients are admitted to the practice between 8.30 am and 9.00 am on the day of surgery.

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- Allow your pet exercise and time to empty bowel and bladder before being admitted unless otherwise instructed

Types of anaesthetics used

Your veterinary surgeon will determine which anaesthetic is best for your pet and for the procedure being performed. Some short procedures are conducted under short acting anaesthetics injected into the muscle or vein. Most longer procedures are carried out under gas anaesthesia, which is delivered through a tube placed in the windpipe. We generally use propofol and isoflurane, which are considered the best possible and safest anaesthetic agents for animals. This results in less stress on the heart, kidneys and liver and allows very accurate adjustments to anaesthetic levels. Consequently your pet will wake up more quickly and smoothly after surgery or dentistry. Because of its superior safety features, Isoflurane is especially beneficial if your pet is old, ill or debilitated or is an exotic species.

Other considerations

When your pet is undergoing anaesthesia for one procedure it is worth considering whether the opportunity should be taken to carry out any other procedure. If there is any degree of dental disease and if circumstances permit, the veterinary surgeon might advise that the appropriate dental treatment should be attended to at the same time. When large breeds that are prone to hip dysplasia are neutered we may advise survey X-rays of the hips.

You should be provided with a written estimate of the expected fees and other charges that will be incurred. You may request your bill-to-date at any point during your pets stay.

Finally

Be prepared to spend a few minutes with the veterinary surgeon or veterinary nurse on the morning of admission. A pre-surgical examination will be performed, pre-anaesthetic laboratory work will be discussed and there will be an opportunity for any last minute instructions to be communicated to the surgeon. A pre-anaesthetic sedation is normally given shortly after admission. We really do want you to understand what we are doing and why. If you have any questions about our procedures or your pet's condition, please don't hesitate to ask.