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PRE-PROCEDURE INFORMATION FOR CLIENTS

Preparing for your pet's surgery day

All cats and dogs booked in for procedures that require sedation or anaesthetic, will have a day stay at the clinic. An admit time between 830am to 930am will be arranged with you at booking time and discharge will normally be between 3-5pm. This allows time for the animal to settle in, have a full health check, run pre anaesthetic blood tests, insert a catheter and give a premed (sedation and pain relief) prior to the start of the anaesthetic. Animals need to be fasted pre surgery, which means no breakfast, only water on the day of the procedure. On arrival at the clinic, a vet nurse will complete the admission form with the client, record a brief history of the animal and answer any questions.

Pre-anaesthetic Blood Test

We strongly recommend a blood screen for all animals, especially animals over the age of seven years and those with previous history of illness. This test allows us to check for any disorders of the liver, kidneys or blood to ensure that each animal is free of risk factors that would be compromised by anaesthetic. The screen is done before any drugs are given pre surgery and any values outside of normal ranges will either provide a baseline for monitoring the patient during surgery or result in a cancellation of surgery if the risk is deemed too great.

Intravenous Fluids via Catheter

Intravenous fluids during surgery help maintain normal blood pressure, assist kidney function, increase circulation and minimise potential complications during anaesthesia. Fluid therapy gives the patient a better chance at a smooth and rapid recovery from anaesthetic. The intravenous catheter is also used to administer emergency medications if needed.

Anaesthesia

Isoflurane gas, together with Oxygen will be administered via an endotracheal tube. Isoflurane is a safe anaesthetic, also used in humans and is mainly eliminated through the respiratory tract rather than through the kidneys or liver. This reduces the risk associated with anaesthesia and allows for a quick recovery.

Monitoring

During anaesthesia, we monitor all vital signs and depth of anaesthetic very closely using specialised equipment and charts.

Pain Management

Your animal's comfort is a high priority to us and pre-med drugs given before surgery assist with easing the patient into anaesthetic and also help with pain management during and after the procedure. Take home pain relief and anti-inflammatory medication is included for some procedures and optional for less invasive procedures. These medications help to reduce pain, redness and swelling.

E-Collars

We strongly recommend the use of Elizabethan Collars/Cones after surgery in order to give the suture/wound site the best chance at uninterrupted recovery. We do not accept any responsibility for a pet chewing/removing their stitches and aggravating their wounds at home if they are not wearing an e-collar 24/7 until the date set for stitches to be removed. Re-stitching and treatment of infected wounds due to rubbing or self-mutilation will incur additional costs.

Microchip Implant

While under sedation, we can implant a small microchip under the skin between the shoulder blades that will help in the safe return of a lost pet. For an additional fee, we suggest registration on the NZ Companion Animal Register. In the event of a pet being found, any vet, council, SPCA or animal store can scan the animal, access the NZCAR and find the owner's details. This means the animal is reunited with family quickly and avoids the stress of time in the pound and fees associated with release from the pound.