



Anesthesia

Preparing Your Pet For Anesthesia

What Are The Risks To My Pet?

At Indian Hills Animal Clinic your pet's health is our first priority. That means we do all we can to ensure the safety of your pet during surgical procedures, including the type of anesthesia we use.

While it's true all surgical procedures carry some risk, we have an extremely low incidence of anesthetic complications. Why? Because most risks can be minimized by providing pre-surgical exams, running pre-anesthetic blood work, and using the latest anesthetic techniques and drugs.

Your Pet's Medical History

The first step we take is obtaining important information from you, the owner. When you drop your pet off for surgery, a technician will meet with you in an exam room. She/he will have you read and sign a surgical authorization form and explain the procedure. If you have any other services you would like to take care of while your pet is under anesthesia, please let the technician know. We will also need to know if your pet is currently on any medications and the time of last feeding.

Pre-Anesthetic Testing

Just as your medical doctor does before human surgery, we run a pre-anesthetic blood panel. This will screen your pet for anemia and diabetes as well as liver and kidney function. If your pet is over 7 years of age, we run an additional CBC (complete blood count) and thyroid screen. We also recommend that your dog has been tested for heartworms within the past year if on prevention, or within the past 3 months if not. These tests will help us determine if there are any underlying conditions that could compromise the safety of putting your pet under anesthesia.

Physical Examination

After admitting your pet to the hospital, we do a complete physical examination: listening to the heart and lungs; checking the ears, teeth and eyes; taking the pet's temperature; and palpating the abdomen and lymph nodes. If anything abnormal is noted, the doctor will call you before administering anesthesia. Keep in mind however, that many pre-existing conditions are not evident during a physical examination. To better detect these problems, we require that all anesthetized patients be screened by means of a pre-anesthetic blood panel.

Isoflurane

Both injectable and gas anesthetics have become very safe for pets. Depending on the procedure, and the animal's size, we will often induce anesthesia with an injection, and then provide a gas called isoflurane for the duration of surgery. Isoflurane is an extremely safe gas anesthetic, which explains why it is also one of the most widely used gas anesthetics in human medicine.

Like other gas anesthetics, this agent is inhaled by the pet. Unlike intravenous injections, this mixture of oxygen and isoflurane can be changed rapidly, and the depth of anesthesia can be controlled accurately. This allows the pet to receive only the amount required. Because isoflurane is eliminated from the body primarily through exhaling, it reduces the amount of work that organs, such as the liver and kidneys, have to perform in breaking down and eliminating drugs. It is also safe for use in pregnant females, and exotics like birds, ferrets and reptiles. In addition to these very desirable benefits, isoflurane allows the pet to awaken from anesthesia very quickly, and to stand and move within minutes.

Preparing Your Pet For Anesthesia

You may bring your pet in the morning of surgery between 7 and 8 a.m. with the following instructions.

- ♦ No food after 6 p.m. the evening before surgery.
- ♦ Water is allowed up until the time of drop-off for surgery.
- ♦ No food the morning of surgery.
- ♦ Inform us of any medication given within 24 hours of surgery.

You may call after 12:00 p.m. to inquire about your pet's condition and get a tentative dismissal time.

During Surgery

Throughout the surgical procedure, your pet's vital signs will be carefully monitored to evaluate how he is responding. Our doctors use the latest monitoring equipment including: Pulse Oximetry, Capnograph, non-invasive blood pressure, ECG, and temperature. Any abnormal change in any of these values in your pet are taken seriously and proper measures are taken to ensure your pet remains safe under the anesthesia.

After surgery, your pet is moved to the recovery area in the hospital for observation. A technician will stay with your pet until he is awake. Clean towels, sheepskin blankets, and sometimes heating pads are placed under your pet to keep him warm and comfortable. Although your pet will be awake within minutes, we will keep him throughout the afternoon, and depending on what type of surgery was done, sometimes over night, in order to monitor his recovery from anesthesia, and to recheck any incisions, change bandages, etc.

If you have any further questions regarding the safety of anesthesia, please discuss your concerns with one of our veterinarians.

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M-W-F 7am-6pm
T-Th 7am-7pm
Sat 8am- 12pm

M-W-F 7am-6pm
T-Th 7am-7pm
Sat 8am- 12pm