

## Getting Ready for Your Pet's Surgery

### The Day BEFORE the Surgery / Anesthesia:

- Continue your Pet's daily routine as usual with feeding and any medications, including antibiotics if you are currently administering them.
- No food after 10:00 p.m. the night before the surgery.
- Your Pet may have water at all times.

### The Day OF the Surgery / Anesthesia:

- NO Breakfast and No antibiotic or pain medication. *If your Pet inadvertently consumes food, please notify our personnel, so we can assess your Pet in a timely manner!*
- Check in time is 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
- Be sure to tell us about anything concerning *your Pet* that we should know before the anesthesia.
- Ask us any questions you might have. We want you to understand what we are doing and why we are doing it. Your pet's wellbeing is important to us, but we also want you to feel comfortable and informed about your pet's procedure.

### General Post-Surgery Expectations:

- You can expect a phone call once *your Pet* is out of surgery. This will probably be in the afternoon, due to your doctor having multiple procedures in a day.
- Most pets can be picked up after 2 o'clock on the same day of their surgery. However, the doctor may decide that your pet needs to stay with us a little longer to be monitored while they come out of the anesthesia. (Some pets wake up faster than others). The doctor will certainly discuss what time you should pick up when they give you your update post-surgery.
- *Your Pet* may have sutures that should dissolve over time, but the doctor will want to recheck your pet in a 1-3 weeks (They'll let you know!). If there are any remaining sutures at the time of recheck, they will assess whether those need to be removed or not.
- Your doctor and technicians will give you more specific discharge instructions for you to continue care at home. Thank you for choosing our facility for your pet's medical needs! Have a great day!

## Regarding Your Pet's Surgery:

**Risks of Anesthesia:** Your pet will be undergoing general anesthesia for this procedure. This comes with an inherent risk. Regardless of age, breed, species, or previous anesthetic experiences, it is impossible to provide a 100% guarantee that your pet will not have an unforeseen complication possibly resulting in death during this procedure. **However**, the doctors and the staff here at Veterinary Medical Center of Spring take care to evaluate each patient before, during, and after anesthesia. Pre-anesthetic bloodwork, intravenous fluids, pain medications, and sophisticated monitoring are an integral part of making sure your pet does not have any adverse effects to anesthesia. *We do everything we can to make sure that your pet receives the highest quality of care while they are under our supervision. If for any reason the doctors feel that anesthesia is not appropriate for your pet, you will be contacted immediately.*

**Pre-Anesthetic Bloodwork:** Before we perform any procedure requiring anesthesia, we run tests to confirm that your pet's organs are functioning properly and to reveal any hidden health conditions that could potentially put your pet at risk. *If your pet has not had Pre-Anesthetic Bloodwork done in the last six weeks, we will do the bloodwork before starting the surgical procedure.*

**Pain Management:** Pets experience pain just as humans do, so we may administer medication before, during, and after the surgical procedure to control pain, reduce discomfort, and promote recovery. *Pain management drugs will allow for your pet to have a lower level of anesthesia, as well as a more comfortable and speedy recovery.*

**IV Fluids:** Intravenous fluids will assist your pet in maintaining blood pressure, replacing blood loss, speeding recovery, and, **in emergency cases**, receiving potential life-saving drugs.

**Risks of Surgical Procedures:** While surgical procedures carry a very low risk of complications, they can include, but are not limited to, infections, hemorrhage, poor healing, and risks of anesthesia (as previously stated). *We take every precaution to prevent complications from occurring, nevertheless there is always the possibility of unforeseen complications occurring during the procedure.*

**Post-Operation:** After your pet undergoes this procedure, we will provide you with a set of discharge instructions that you can take home to help you continue their post-operative care. We will be happy to answer any questions about those instructions that you may have at the time of pick up. Please do not hesitate to call us at (281)353-5700 if you have any questions or concerns once you have taken your pet home.