

## **PLEASE READ THESE IMPORTANT PRE-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS**

Please ensure that your pet has nothing to eat from midnight the night before the operation.

Leave access to water overnight – just ensure that nothing is drunk after 8am on the day.

Cats should be kept in overnight with a litter tray.

Please bring your pet to the surgery between 8 and 8.30am. Please have a contact number ready to leave with us.

Please ensure all cats are brought into the surgery in a secure, escape proof container. All dogs must come into the surgery on a lead.

Unless told otherwise expect your pet to be discharged on the same day. We will contact you with your pet's progress once the procedure has been performed. If however you have not heard from us by 3.30pm, please contact the surgery and at that point we would hope to be able to give you an update on your pet and a possible collection time.

### **Pre-anaesthetic blood test.**

This can alert us to conditions not detectable in the pre-anaesthetic physical examination, for example kidney and liver function, diabetes, blood cell levels. Cost is just £30.90 including VAT. You will be asked on admittance if you would like this test.

### ***About our anaesthetics...***

#### ***Did you know?***

...Our anaesthetic protocol incorporates the safest anaesthetic agents available today, the same used in human paediatrics.

... The anaesthetic is much smoother and well controlled.

...The animals wake up with much less of a 'hangover' effect.

...The anaesthetic has less of an effect on vital organs, such as the heart, kidneys and liver.

### **Anaesthetic monitoring in the practice.**

All our patients are monitored by qualified staff until they are fully recovered. Further more, we use anaesthetic monitoring devices including a pulse oximeter, blood pressure monitor and E.C.G on as many anaesthetics as possible.

### **Payment**

We expect full payment for any procedures and medications at the time of discharge. To help streamline the discharge process we are taking credit/debit card details at admission. Once you have been contacted following the procedure, and advised of the cost, we will then process your payment.

## **WHAT TO EXPECT FOLLOWING YOUR PET'S GENERAL SURGERY**

This sheet gives you an approximate idea of what to expect when your pet returns home after their surgery. It is only intended to be a general idea as each recovery plan is tailored to suit the needs of the individual.

Expect your pet to have a small clipped patch on either one or both of their front legs. If you have opted for any blood tests, expect either one or both sides of their neck to be clipped. Also, the area around the incision site will have been clipped to ensure sterility during the operation.

When your pet returns home from the surgery they may be a little sleepy, wobbly and disorientated. This is to be expected following the anaesthetic and is nothing to worry about. Your pet will require a bland diet for the evening of the surgery and possibly the next day. We can provide this diet for you.

We normally ask that your pet is strictly rested for ten days following surgery and then gradually introduce exercise thereafter. The wound will be at its most fragile during this time and so any strain on the wound could cause a delay and complications in wound healing. Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times when they are not in the house and should only venture outside to go to the toilet. Cats should be kept indoors for ten days following surgery and should not be allowed to jump onto furniture or up stairs. If you think that you may have a problem trying to rest your pet please let us know – we may be able to provide a cage.

Your pet will not be allowed to interfere with their wound following surgery. By licking or chewing at the wound they may damage any stitches or glue present. Their mouths (even the cleaner ones!) contain millions of bacteria that, when licking the wound, can leave bacteria on the site ready to cause an infection. A buster collar will be provided to prevent pet interference and must be worn at all times when your pet is not strictly supervised. Please check that your pet is able to eat and drink when wearing their collar.

We will ask you to check their wounds daily. Unless you are advised otherwise any swelling, discharge, redness, odour or gaping is not normal and you should contact the surgery for advice. If your pet has received dental treatment it is common for them to have a slightly bloody salival discharge, especially after tooth extractions. Following dental work, we recommend tinned or soaked dry food only whilst their mouth is recovering.

Following surgery, we ask that you book two follow up appointments for a wound check and possibly stitch removal if this is necessary. These appointments are normally three and ten days following surgery and will normally be with a nurse. Assuming there are no complications these appointments are free of charge. If your pet is has recieved dental work we normally ask to see them only once following the procedure.

Your pet will be discharged to you by a nurse who will go through a discharge sheet with you. If your pet requires any medication for you to administer at home we will show you the correct dose and frequency. If you would like a demonstration of how to administer any medications please tell us!

If you have any concerns regarding your pet's recovery from their procedure please contact us to discuss this.