

SAMPLE CARE PLAN FOR ROUTINE SURGERY



Coffs Harbour Veterinary Hospital
4 Lyster Street
Coffs Harbour New South Wales 2450



Admission

Please allow 10 – 20 minutes to admit your pet for their procedure.

During admission we will clarify and confirm your pet's procedure as specified on the completed Consent for Treatment form, and discuss any extras required.

You (or someone you have authorised to make decisions on your behalf) will be required to sign an Admission form confirming the procedure & any extra treatments or services to be performed, and to confirm that the home-preparation of your pet has been performed as directed.

Please ensure that you (or someone you have authorised to make decisions on your behalf) are contactable during the day of the procedure.

What to bring:

- Your pet wearing a harness or collar and lead OR in a secure carrier
- Your pet's vaccination record/certificate

- Your pet's current medications

Discharge

Allow 20 minutes to pick up your pet at discharge (usually between 4pm and 6pm).

We will book a tentative discharge time at admission, however this time may change depending on your pet's recovery from their procedure.

During the discharge appointment, we will discuss recovery, homecare, medications, recheck appointments and also answer any questions you may have.

Payment

Payment in full will be required at the time of discharge and in some cases, a deposit will be required upon admission.

We accept cash, credit card, EFTPOS and Vetpay.

If your pet is insured, please ask us about on-the-spot GapOnly insurance claims.

Pre-surgery check list

- Consent for Treatment form: Completed, signed and returned (submitted) at least one business day prior to your pet's admission.
- Set up an area for your pet's post-operative return. For the first night your pet will need to be confined in a warm, comfy bed in a quiet area where you can keep a close eye on them. Most pets will require confinement to a small area for at least a week after the surgery to prevent activity which may disrupt the surgical site.
- Bathing: Bath your dog using an animal shampoo the day before surgery, paying extra attention to the proposed surgery site. You do not need to bath cats! An extra surgical prep fee may be charged if your pet's surgical site is dirty.
- Fasting: Your pet can have dinner the night before but then remove all access to food from 10pm (and no breakfast on the morning of the procedure).
- Water: Allow free access to water until admission.
- Medication: If your pet is on any medication, please ensure you have checked with your vet if it is appropriate to be given on the morning of the procedure. Please bring your pet's current medications with you on the day.
- Toileting: Allow your pet to toilet as normal before bringing to the surgery.
- Vaccinations: Vaccinations should be up to date. If not, they can be given on the day of the procedure. If vaccinations are not up-to-date, an isolation cleaning fee will be charged. Please bring your pet's vaccination certificate or record with you, unless we have your pet's vaccinations on record here.

The Procedure

Rest assured your pet will be in safe hands during their stay. Whilst we are unable to completely eliminate all risks, we take special care to make our anaesthetics as safe as possible, and all procedures as pain- and stress-free as possible.

Every pet receives:

- A thorough pre-anaesthetic/sedation examination.
- Pre-medication with a mild sedative and pain-reliever.
- An intravenous catheter is placed and may be used for a drip and to allow pain-free access for injections.
- Gaseous (isoflurane) anaesthetic for safety (where required).
- Skilled nurses monitor anaesthetised and recovering patients constantly with up-to-date equipment and techniques.
- Post-operative pain medications are given to patients as required. Any signs of distress or pain after the procedure are minimised immediately.
- Attention is given to comfort, company, pats and cuddles – or whatever else it takes - to improve your pet's emotional experience with us.

Changes to Procedure

Please be aware that procedures do not always proceed as anticipated. Sometimes the procedure takes longer than initially thought, or complications may develop necessitating further or alternative treatment.

For this reason the estimated costs may change during the procedure. We will endeavour to discuss this with you at the time if possible. Please rest assured that your pet's wellbeing and welfare are our priorities at all times.

Very occasionally an emergency or unforeseen circumstance may prevent your pet's procedure from going ahead on the day. We appreciate your understanding and will endeavour to notify you as soon as possible and reschedule your pet's procedure when convenient.

Pets On Heat

A female dog's heat cycle lasts for approximately 21 days. It is recommended to wait until all swelling from the heat cycle has resolved (usually 2-3 weeks after the heat cycle has finished) before desexing as there is a slightly increased risk of complications during the procedure due to increased blood flow. If you are unsure whether your dog is on heat or not, please call our friendly team to discuss your situation prior to their procedure date.

A female cat may be on heat almost constantly during the breeding season (Spring and Summer). It is often difficult to assess whether a cat is on heat by examination, and it may only be discovered during the surgery. It is not recommended to delay desexing your cat if it is suspected of being on heat.

Animals desexed during their heat cycle will incur an extra fee.

Extras

Please let our admission nurse know your pet's additional requirements. These may incur an extra fee. Suggested optional extras include:

- Pedicure/Nail trim (free of charge)
- Parasite control (worms/fleas/ticks/heartworm) (fee applies)
- Vaccination (fee applies)
- Microchip (fee applies)
- Anal gland expression (free of charge)
- Basic/minor ear clean (free of charge)
- Standard ear clean/flush (fee applies)
- Blood testing. (fee applies) While we highly recommend a pre-anaesthetic/sedation blood test for all patients, it is compulsory for all patients who are 7 years of age or older. See below for more information
- Extra fees may also be charged if your pet is not up to date with vaccinations or has not been bathed prior to the surgery

Surgical Risks

There is some degree of risk with any medical or surgical treatment. Even if all possible measures are taken to prevent or minimise negative outcomes, these can still occur. Adverse events with anaesthesia are uncommon but can include exacerbation of underlying conditions, brain injury or death.

If you would like to discuss any of the above information (or anything else) please call us on 02 6652 1577.

Pre-anaesthetic/Sedation Blood Testing *(Please note an extra fee does apply)*

The greatest concern of many pet owners is anaesthetic and surgical safety.

We highly recommend pre-anaesthetic/sedation blood testing for all patients undergoing an anaesthetic or sedation.

You can let us know during your pet's admission on the day of the procedure, whether you choose to have pre-anaesthetic/sedation blood testing on your pet.

If your pet is 7 years of age or older, pre-anaesthetic/sedation blood testing is compulsory.

Please review the information below to help you make your decision.

Looks can be deceiving.....

If your pet is up to date with vaccinations, heart and intestinal worm prevention, is a healthy weight, has a normal level of activity, appetite and drinking habits, and is normal on physical veterinary examination.....it usually means that your pet is 100% healthy.....but this is not always the case.

It may only be when your pet needs to be anaesthetised or sedated that early organ dysfunction becomes apparent - manifested through anaesthetic/sedative complications. These complications may occur during an anaesthetic/sedation - or more commonly result in delayed anaesthetic/sedative recovery - or could develop some weeks following a procedure.

The likelihood that your pet is masking sub-clinical disease increases with your pet's age. Pets over 7 years of age are considered seniors and are at the greatest risk of anaesthetic complications. For this reason, a pre-anaesthetic/sedation blood test is compulsory for all patients who are 7 years of age or older. If this is declined, the veterinarian may elect to cancel or reschedule your pet's procedure.

What can a blood test tell you that an examination can't?

A pre-anaesthetic/sedation blood evaluation provides your vet with a window inside your pet - assessing liver and kidney function and protein levels (amongst other things) - which are responsible for the safe metabolism and elimination of anaesthetic agents and therefore a safe recovery. Red blood cell counts are also included in pre-anaesthetic/sedation tests which will influence surgical risk in major procedures where bleeding is a possible complication.

Dysfunction of the liver and kidney will really only be apparent clinically when disease is advanced. Blood testing will pick up problems much earlier than an examination ever could.

It is in the best interest of your pet's safety to pick up any abnormalities before they are anaesthetised or sedated.

What happens if the results are abnormal?

The results of a pre-anaesthetic/sedation blood test will help us to select the most appropriate (safest) sedation and anaesthetic for your pet. It will also influence the duration and volume of fluid therapy and the choice of pain relief given to your pet.

In some cases where blood abnormalities are significant, your pet's anaesthetic or sedation may be delayed until further investigation is performed or even cancelled in extreme cases (where the risk of anaesthesia or sedation outweighs the benefits of the scheduled procedure).

How long does it take to get the blood results back?

Pre-anaesthetic/sedation blood tests are run on-site with results obtained within 10-20 mins of blood collection. Tests can be performed on the same day of a scheduled surgery, or in cases where underlying problems are suspected (especially senior pets), days in advance of the procedure.

Top four reasons why we recommend testing your pet before anaesthesia or sedation.

1. Enjoy peace of mind - when results are normal.
2. Detect hidden illness - pre-anaesthetic/sedation blood tests may pick up early organ dysfunction in apparently healthy animals. It is in the best interest of your pet to address abnormalities before your pet becomes unwell.
3. Reduce risks and consequences - where results are abnormal we can adjust your pet's treatment, providing you peace of mind that your pet is receiving the safest anaesthetic/sedation possible for his/her health state.
4. Protect your pet's future health - These tests become part of your pet's medical record, providing a baseline for future reference.

So for greater peace of mind and to minimise anaesthetic and sedation risk - it is in the best interest of your pet to have a pre- anaesthetic/sedation blood test.