



The Montrose Veterinary Clinic
1701 Montrose Blvd. Houston, Tx 77006

www.montrosevetclinic.com

713-524-3814

Anesthetic and Pre-Surgical Information

Your pet has been scheduled for an upcoming anesthetic procedure. The following information has been put together to help make surgery day as easy and stress-free as possible. Please read it carefully and call us if you have any questions.

The night before the procedure...

- Withhold all food and treats after 9:00 pm.
- You may leave water down through the night until 7am the morning of the procedure.
- If your pet is on any medications or supplements, please verify with the doctor whether or not you should give the morning dose prior to the procedure.

We admit surgery patients between 7:30-8:30 am. In most cases admitting your pet for an anesthetic/surgical procedure will take 15-20 minutes. If you are unable to bring your pet during this time, please call us to make other arrangements prior to the day of the scheduled procedure.

On the morning of the procedure you will be asked to review and sign a consent form for the scheduled procedure as well as provide a phone number where you can be reached throughout that day. One of our technicians will ask you a few general questions about your pet's morning routine as well as answer any remaining questions you may have about the procedure. The technician will escort your pet to the treatment area to collect blood for the appropriate pre-anesthetic screen and to place an IV catheter.

Most of our surgical procedures take place between 9am and 3pm. Although you are welcome to call and check on your pet at any time, a technician or doctor will call you during the recovery period once an approximate discharge time can be determined. Pets having a surgery that involves opening the body cavity will stay overnight. This includes procedures such as spay, cystotomy, and exploratory. Orthopedic procedures will stay at least two nights. If your pet is staying overnight, you will receive a call with your pet's status in the afternoon.

When you arrive to pick up your pet, the receptionists will process your invoice and a technician will be notified to prepare your pet for discharge. The technician will go over all discharge instructions including post-op care and medications. It is important that you follow these instructions carefully to minimize the risk of complications. This includes scheduling any follow-up appointments that may be recommended. These instructions will be printed for you as well. Please share them with other family members or caretakers of your pet.

We realize that surgery and anesthesia are daunting for both you and your pet and we make every attempt to make surgery day as safe and comfortable for all involved. Please feel free to call and talk with one of our health care team members if you have any questions about your pet's upcoming procedure.



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Pre-anesthetic Screening

Our greatest concern is the well-being of your pet. Before putting your pet under anesthesia, the doctor will perform a complete physical examination and evaluate a pre-anesthetic screen (based on your pet's life stage); much like your physician would do if you were undergoing an anesthetic procedure. This blood work helps alert the doctor to the presence of dehydration, anemia, infection, diabetes, and/or kidney or liver disease that could complicate the procedure. The results help us choose the safest and most appropriate anesthetic protocol for your pet as well as provide a baseline should further testing be done at a later time. It is important to understand that pre-anesthetic screening does not guarantee the absence of anesthetic complications however it may greatly reduce the risk of complications as well as identify medical conditions that could require medical treatment in the future. If there are any concerns once the pre-anesthetic screen and exam are completed, you will receive a phone call prior to surgery.

IV Catheter and Fluids

Please be aware that some fur will be shaved (typically on a front limb) for the catheter placement. In almost all cases, surgical patients receive IV fluids during their procedure. This helps correct any deficits caused by fasting, maintain blood pressure during anesthesia, and ensure that your pet is well-hydrated for a more rapid elimination of the anesthetic agents.

Anesthetic Procedures and Risks

In most cases, we use a combination of pre-anesthetic injectable medications and an inhalant/gas anesthetic to achieve an optimal level of anesthesia that is safe for your pet. The pre-anesthetic allows your pet to relax and go to sleep so that an endotracheal tube can be passed into the pet's airway. This tube ensures that your pet is able to receive adequate oxygen and the gas anesthesia throughout the procedure. It also prevents aspiration of any fluids into the lungs. Maintaining your pet on an inhalant anesthetic gives us greater control over anesthetic depth and means they will have fewer effects to the liver and kidneys. If the patient needs more or less anesthesia, the rate can be adjusted with rapid response. Once the procedure is completed, the gas is turned off and the pet is kept on oxygen for a few minutes. Once the pet is breathing room air and swallowing, the tube is removed.

Some pets may experience minor throat irritation from the endotracheal tube following their procedure. This should subside without treatment in a day or two and does not typically interfere with eating/drinking.

Potential Surgical Complications

The primary surgical complications that can occur with any procedure are bleeding, infection, swelling, and suture reactions. The majority of these complications can be prevented by strict compliance of post-op care. Your pet should be kept quiet with minimal activity (leash walks to potty, no running or jumping-in most cases stairs are ok taken one at a time). You will need to check the incision site 2-3 times daily, keep it clean, and report any unusual swelling or drainage to the doctor immediately. Other complications that may arise in association with a particular procedure are:

Ovariohysterectomy- recurrent heat, urinary incontinence, weight gain

Neuter- scrotal swelling, weight gain

Feline Declaw- limping, lameness, regrowth of nail

Tumor/Mass Removal-drainage (normal in the presence of a drain tube)

It is important for you to understand that there is always a risk of anesthetic and surgical complications anytime these procedures are performed. We strive to provide the highest quality care of your pet and take every precaution to avoid potential problems. Thank you for entrusting your pet to us.