

# MEEKER ANIMAL HOSPITAL SURGICAL GUIDELINE

Your pet has been scheduled for an upcoming surgery in the near future. In our attempt to assist clients, we have put together this packet to make surgery day as easy and stress-free as possible.

## PRE-ANESTHETIC SCREENING:

In order for us to best help your pet, it is important for us to be able to evaluate your pet's overall health, especially before administering anesthetic.



### **Bloodwork:**

A CBC (complete blood cell count) and a chemistry profile will be required depending on the age of your pet. However other tests may be required or recommended depending on your pet's needs.



### **Radiographs:**

If your pet is 10 years of age or older, thoracic radiograph will be required. Other radiographs may be required, based on your pet's overall health in the diagnosis.

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## PRE-OPERATIVE CONSIDERATIONS:



### **The Evening Prior to Surgery:**

Your pet should NOT eat after 10pm the night before surgery or as directed by your surgeon; If your pet is under 6 months old please ask the technician about special feeding instructions. Water can be given until the morning of surgery.



### **The Morning of Surgery:**

#### **Medications:**

Medications can be given the evening prior to surgery. If your pet is taking medications that is critical to their health, such as heart or seizure medication, please give as early as possible the morning of surgery without food. If your pet is a diabetic please discuss the insulin dosage with your doctor prior to surgery. Please make sure that you inform us of any medications you're fed has been given the day of surgery when you complete our drop off form that morning.



#### **Diet:**

Please inform the doctor or technician if your pet is on a special diet or has a sensitive stomach. If your pet is on a special diet or you prefer them to eat their regular diet, please bring a small amount.

#### **Arrival Time:**

Your pet will be admitted to the hospital on the morning of surgery between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. This allows time for your pet will be examined by the surgeon in for the technicians to prep your pet for surgery.



\*Please do not bring any personal items as they may be lost during your pet's stay.

\*Please inform the technician when you arrive if your pet accidentally ate after 10 p.m. the night before surgery.

#### **Consent for Treatment & Surgery:**

You will need to complete a consent form for treatment, surgery and anesthetic at the time of admittance to the hospital. A health care plan estimate will also be provided if needed.



#### **We need to know if your pet:**

\*Has had previous problems with anesthetic.

\*Is allergic to any medications.





#### **Surgical Time and Doctor Communication:**

Estimated time of your pet surgery will be given when your pet is admitted into the hospital. One of our technicians will contact you as soon as your pet has recovered from anesthetic. Select only one family member as a primary contact and relay information to other.



If diagnosis are performed prior to surgery that may affect the procedure to be performed, the doctor will call prior to surgery. While your pet is under anesthesia there will be a dedicated technician monitoring your pet from the time of inductions until your pet is awake.

#### **The Night of Surgery:**



Most surgeries performed are outpatient, If your pet has to stay overnight a technician will keep you update.



#### **Status updates:**

The staff is available to give detailed updates over the phone between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you are calling after hours please leave a detailed message and A technician you back as soon as possible.



#### **Incision Care:**

Please do not let your pet lick or two after incision. Make sure your pet is wearing an Elizabethan collar at all times when unsupervised. Licking will likely lead to an infection and could cause delay in the healing process. Monitor the incision for any discharge, excessive redness or discomfort and contact us if you have any concerns.



#### **Medications:**

Give all medications as instructed. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs to be given with food. Most medications can be given As a treat if your pet has difficulty taking medications please call.

## **RESTRICTION DURING THE POST-OPERATIVE WEEKS**

Some surgeries require restricted activity after surgery for a minimum of two weeks, longer for orthopedic and neurological cases. Leash walks should be short 2-3 minutes, no running, jumping or off-leash activity. If your pet has orthopedic surgery restricted activity could be as long as 2-12 weeks depending on the type of procedure.

Each patient will have individual discharge instructions at time of pickup.



#### **Confinement:**

Confinement for your pet is the equivalent to bed rest for people. This is the hardest part of your pet's recovery for you and them, that is also the most important to ensure positive outcome. A crate is often the most secure form of confinement. This is usually the safest option. A crate should be large enough for your pet to stand up turn around while wearing an e-collar.

