

Surgical checklist for our valued pet parents:

We want to ensure that your pet recovers safely and comfortably after surgery by preparing you for what to expect. This way, you can get back to spending quality time with your beloved companion as soon as possible.

Before surgery:

We will do our best to walk you through surgery preparation topics like withholding food and will go over existing conditions your pet may have (as these can change the anesthesia protocol). In preparation for your pet's surgery, we urge that you speak with us about medications that can aid their recovery. Some questions you may want to ask include:

- ✔ What medications, if any will be necessary to manage pain after surgery and will antibiotics be needed??
- ✔ Will my pet benefit from medications to help deal with anesthesia-related vomiting?
- ✔ Are there any medications to help my pet deal with any exercise restriction that's necessary?
- ✔ And don't forget about the dreaded "cone" — if your pet will need one of those to help with recovery, now is the time to get an E-collar and begin to train your pet to accept it.

During surgery:

- ✔ We may give your pet medications before surgery to help reduce their level of anxiety and pain, and help them relax. Once these medications have taken effect, your pet will be given an anesthetic to provide general anesthesia. Depending on the type of surgery, additional pain control medications may be given.
- ✔ Because of the advancement of anesthetic drugs and monitoring equipment, anesthesia is safer than ever. During surgery, a vet tech will be assigned to continuously monitor your pet, ensuring that they are safe and comfortable.
- ✔ Once the surgery is complete, your pet will be monitored until they are fully conscious and can sit up on their own. Additional medications may be given during this period to ensure a smooth transition from being under anesthesia to being awake. Medicine for pain control may be provided to ensure they have the most comfortable experience.

After surgery:

- ✔ If your pet is still vomiting when it's time for them to go home, we may prescribe an anti-vomiting medication.
- ✔ Make sure to follow any instructions on when (and for how long) to give your pet their medications in order to allow them return to their normal activities as smoothly as possible. **Please Note:** It's important to continue giving their medication, even if they seem like they're feeling better, to help them fully recover from surgery.
- ✔ A positive surgery experience from beginning to end will help reduce the level of fear and anxiety your dog may experience during future veterinary visits.