



#6, 5207 - 48 Street Rocky Mtn House, T4T 0B1

## Your pet is having surgery

This information page explains the decisions you'll need to make before your companion animal has surgery. It also shares insight into what will occur and likely answers most of your questions. Remember too... we are available to further explain and clarify your pet's surgery – and what to expect.

Is the anesthetic safe?

Your pet is thoroughly examined prior to receiving any anesthetic. Each animal is given a customized calculated dosage of premed and adjusted amount of anesthetic depending on its age and health. Intravenous (IV) catheters allow delivery of fluids to maintain blood pressure and as a readily available access point to deliver medication during anesthesia. Our Animal Health Technicians (AHTs) are highly-trained to closely monitor all animals throughout the surgery process.

### **Why do you need to test my pet's blood?**

It is important to confirm an animal is healthy enough for surgery. Blood tests help confirm if there are any serious organ system problems that might be exacerbated by anesthesia or surgery. If the blood tests reveal serious problems then the surgery can be postponed until the health problem is solved.

What kind of blood testing will you do before the surgery?

We offer two levels of in-house blood testing (GHP, PAB) done before surgery, which we'll discuss with you in greater detail when you bring your pet in. For geriatric or ill pets, additional blood tests, electrocardiograms, or x-rays may be required before surgery as well.

### **When should I stop feeding my pet prior to surgery?**

Surgery must be done on an empty stomach to reduce the risk of vomiting during and after anesthesia. Water may be left available for your pet up to the morning of surgery but your animal should have no food for 8 to 10 hours prior to surgery. Exceptions may be given if you have a diabetic animal, debilitated animal or in renal cases.

### **What other decisions do I need to make?**

While your pet is under anesthesia, it is an opportunity to perform other minor procedures, such as dentistry, ear cleaning, or implanting an identification microchip. If you would like an estimate for these extra services, please discuss with us prior to your surgery appointment.

### **Do I need to come in early?**

Yes. You will need extra time to complete paperwork and make decisions regarding blood work and other optional tests. We will talk to you the day before surgery to answer any last questions and to confirm timing and expectations for the next day.

**Will my pet be left alone during/after surgery? Can I watch or be close by?**

There is always someone with your pet once they have been given an anesthetic. Our comforting team member will look after and monitor your pet's needs. We utilize a variety of equipment and monitors to carefully watch over your pet's vital signs.

**What happens after the surgery?**

When you pick up your pet after surgery expect to spend a little time with us discussing our pet's home care needs. We'll also follow-up to see how your animal is progressing and we'll schedule any required post-surgery appointments.

**Will my pet have stitches?**

For many surgeries, we use absorbable sutures underneath the skin. These will automatically dissolve over a short period of time. Other surgeries do require suture/staple removal. You will want to watch for swelling or discharge at the incision. Your pet may require an e-collar to prevent them licking or chewing the incision. Typically you will limit your pet's activities for a while after surgery and no baths for 14 days. If there are skin sutures/staples they are usually removed 14 days after surgery.

If you have other questions about your animal's surgery, please contact us directly:

403.845.2121

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Gateway Companion Animal Clinic