



# Gregg Animal Hospital

Established 1962



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## Surgery

### What You Need to Know before Your Pet's Upcoming Procedure

Patient Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Surgery \_\_\_\_\_  
Procedure(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Many people have questions about various aspects of their pet's surgery, and we hope this information will help. It also explains the decision you will need to make before you pet's upcoming procedure.

#### **Is the anesthetic safe?**

Today's modern anesthetic equipment has made surgery much safer than in the past. While there is no such thing as "zero-risk" anesthesia, we are proud of our anesthesia safety record. We have developed protocols to make your pet's procedure as safe as possible. Here at Gregg Animal Hospital we have the most modern anesthetic equipment available. We do a thorough physical exam on your pet before administering anesthetics, to ensure that a fever or other illness won't be a problem. We also adjust the amount and type of anesthetic used depending on the health of your pet. Your pet is monitored under anesthesia by staff members who have received special training in anesthesia administration. Pre-anesthetic blood testing is important in reducing the risk of anesthesia. Blood testing is recommended for every pet before surgery to ensure that the liver and kidneys are functioning normally and that the blood sugar is normal. Even apparently healthy animals can have serious organ system problems that cannot be detected without blood testing. If there is a problem, it is much better to find it before it causes anesthetic or surgical complications. Animals that have minor organ dysfunction may need adjustments to drug protocol or adjustment in IV fluids during surgery. If serious problems are detected, surgery can be postponed until the problem is corrected.

It is important that surgery be done on an empty stomach to reduce the risk of vomiting during and after anesthesia. You will need to withhold food for at least 10 hours before surgery. If your pet weighs less than 4 to 5 pounds, ask us for specific recommendation about fasting. Water can be left down until the morning of surgery.

**Will my pet have stitches?**

Most surgeries that we do will require skin sutures. You will need to keep an eye on the incision for swelling or discharge. Most cats and dogs do not lick excessively or chew at the incision, but this is an occasional problem you will need to watch for. If there are skin sutures, these will usually be removed 10 to 14 days after surgery. You will also need to limit your pet's activity level for a time and no baths are allowed until the sutures have been removed.

**Will my pet be in pain?**

Anything that causes pain in people can be expected to cause pain in animals. Any pain medication needed will depend on the surgery performed. Major procedures require more pain relief than things like a minor laceration. We administer a pain injection 20-30 minutes prior to surgery. After surgery pain medication is given on a case by case basis. Any animal that appears painful will receive additional pain medication (at the owner's expense).

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

While your pet is under anesthesia, it is an ideal time to perform other minor procedures, such as dentistry, ear cleaning, nail trim or implanting an identification microchip. If you would like an estimate for these extra services, please call ahead of time. This is especially important if the person dropping the pet off is not the primary decision maker for the pet's care. When you bring your pet in for surgery, we will need 10 to 15 minutes of time to fill out paperwork and make decisions on blood testing and other options available. When you pick up your pet after surgery you can also plan on spending about 10 minutes to go over your pet's home care needs.

We will call you the night before your scheduled surgery appointment, to confirm the time you will be admitting your pet and to answer any questions you might have. In the meantime don't hesitate to call us with any questions about your pet's health or surgery.

**\*A \$45.00 cancellation fee will be billed to your account if you do not cancel a surgery appointment at least 48 hours prior to your scheduled date.**