

# Pre-Anesthetic Instructions

## BEFORE ANESTHESIA

### Fasting

- It is important that your pet's stomach is empty before an anesthetic as the drugs can cause vomiting and lead to aspiration or pneumonia during surgery recovery.
- Please do not feed your pet after 8 pm the night before surgery.
- A little bit of water that night to keep them comfortable is fine but please don't leave the water bowl out with them overnight.
- On the day of surgery please don't allow your pet any food or water.
- If your pet accidentally consumes food or water please let us know to avoid any serious complications.

### Blood Tests

- Prior to anesthesia a veterinarian will perform a complete physical examination to identify any existing medical conditions that could complicate the procedure and compromise your pet's health.
- There is always the possibility a physical exam alone will not identify all of your pet's health problems.
- For this reason, all pets undergoing anesthesia receive a pre-anesthetic blood test prior to their procedure.
- Blood tests can reduce the risks of complications as well as identify medical conditions that could require medical treatment in the future.
- If there is a concern with the exam or blood work, the veterinarian will call you with their recommendations prior to surgery

### Vaccination and Parasite Control

- For the safety of your pet and the other patients in our care, it is important that your pet's vaccination schedule, worming and flea control are up to date prior to surgery.

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- If you have any questions about your pet's vaccination history or appropriate parasite control please don't hesitate to contact the clinic.

## THE DAY OF SURGERY

### Drop Off

- On the day of surgery, we require your pet to be admitted to the hospital between 8 am and 8:30 am.
- This admission process will take a few minutes as you will be asked questions about your pet's health and you will also be required to sign an anesthetic consent form which we will email the night prior to surgery.
- This form describes that no anesthetic or surgical procedure is without some risk to the patient.
- Every care is taken to ensure the health and safety of your pet- it is our first priority- however, we would be irresponsible not to inform you of the risks involved.
- If you are uneasy about this procedure or the complications that may arise please contact us for more information. We are here to help.

### Fees

- All fees and costs must be paid on the day of surgery before your pet is discharged.

## PATIENT DISCHARGE

### Discharge Instructions

- When your pet is discharged you will receive discharge instructions from one of our veterinary nurses.
  - If you'd like to review our discharge instructions in advance, they can be found on our website <https://hillsidevetclinic.ca/discharge-instructions/>
- You will also get an email copy of these notes.
- Please feel free to ask any questions during the discharge consultation.
- During your discharge consultation, the nurse will book a follow-up appointment to check on your pet's incision and remove their sutures, if necessary.
- This appointment occurs 10-14 days after surgery.
- If you get home and you have any concerns please don't hesitate to get in touch.

### Pick Up Time

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- Generally pick up times for procedures involving general anesthesia is around 2-4 pm.
  - A team member will confirm your pet's pick up time during your post-anesthesia call.
  - If your pet would benefit by being home sooner, you may be asked to pick them up earlier for their well-being.
  - When you pick up your pet they may be tired and groggy. As such, it is important that they are transported home by vehicle and are not expected to walk home. Once at home, they need to be kept confined in a warm dark place to recover.

The team at Hillside takes the relationship with our clients and patients very seriously. We want you to feel at ease entrusting us with your furry family member and are happy to answer any questions at any stage in the process. We take pride in the services we provide and look forward to working with you to supply your pet with the very best of care. Please feel free to call us on (905) 895-6065 or email us at [wecare@hillsidevet.ca](mailto:wecare@hillsidevet.ca) to discuss any questions or concerns you may have.