

Scott County Animal Hospital, P.C.
115 South 16th Avenue, Eldridge, IA 52748
(563) 285-8624

SO YOUR PET IS HAVING SURGERY!

We understand that this day may be very stressful for you, the owner, as well as for your pet. Please take a moment to look through this information packet which we hope will prepare you for what is to come, and let you know what to expect before, during, and after surgery.

BEFORE SURGERY

Please **prevent the surgical patient from eating anything after 10PM the night before surgery**. We want your pet to have an empty stomach for surgery. This is to avoid regurgitation during surgery which could lead to choking or pneumonia. **It is ok for your pet to have water** until you leave home.

Please arrive at the clinic between 7:30 and 8:00AM unless previously arranged with a doctor.

There are several procedures we do while your pet is under anesthesia. Some we do for all patients. These include: toenail trim, checking ears for dirt and infection, removing deciduous (baby) teeth in puppies and kittens, and vaccinations (if your pet is due for any).

Some other elective procedures which you can choose to have done under anesthesia include:

- implanting a microchip – helps locate your pet if lost
- removing small lumps, masses, or warts
- dental cleaning – removes tartar and polishes teeth to improve oral health
- applying OraVet sealant to the teeth to prevent tartar buildup

When you check in, a technician will ask you if you would like to have any of these elective procedures performed. If you have any questions about them, please do not hesitate to ask.

AT CHECK-IN

Please **allow yourself enough time to check your pet into the clinic for surgery**. Normally, this procedure requires at least 15 minutes of your time, and sometimes a little more. Rushing can lead to forgotten information, and confusion after surgery. Please do not allow children to drop off pets for surgery unless you have called first to arrange this. Minors are not legally able to sign our consent form. Also, they often do not know the answers to the presurgical questions we ask.

When you check in, you will be asked to approve or decline:

Presurgical Bloodwork (complete blood cell count (CBC) and serum chemistry)

Bloodwork will be recommended to you when going through the consent form. This procedure is still optional at our clinic, but is highly recommended for all anesthetic episodes. Bloodwork allows us to make sure that your pet is healthy enough for surgery, does not have an infection or anemia, and does not have kidney or liver damage which may interfere with the anesthetic drugs. Some drugs can be dangerous in animals with kidney or liver problems, so we may decide to postpone surgery or use different drugs if we detect a problem. In some older animals, or animals with known problems, the doctor may insist on bloodwork before anesthesia.

PRIOR TO AND DURING ANESTHESIA

Prior to anesthesia an EKG (electrocardiogram) will be performed. An EKG allows us to make sure that your pet's heart rate and rhythm are regular and normal before surgery. Irregular heart rhythms can lead to problems during surgery, and certain anesthetic drugs can make these arrhythmias worse.

Intravenous Fluids & IV catheter - We place an IV catheter and give fluids to your pet during anesthesia. IV fluids & catheter provide us with quick direct access for emergency injections, flush anesthetic drugs out of the system faster, and help maintain your pet's blood pressure during anesthesia.

Blood Pressure Monitoring – We will also monitor your pet's blood pressure and level of oxygen in the blood during the surgery.

PAIN MEDICATION

Our clinic uses pain medication for all animals undergoing surgery or other painful procedures. [We do not consider this an optional treatment.](#)

We will choose the safest drug for your pet, based on bloodwork results and procedure type.

Pain medication will be given to your pet during or before surgery to prevent the development of painful sensations, and will be continued after surgery as needed. You will also receive pain medication to give your pet at home after discharge.

We keep your pet overnight in the hospital in order to keep him or her quiet in a confined space, to allow resting and recovery from the anesthetic drugs. We also want to check the incision site in the evening and again in the morning to ensure that there is no bleeding or excess swelling.

AFTER SURGERY

When we send your pet home, you will be asked to keep him or her very quiet and confined for a certain period of time. This is for your pet's safety! [Pets who run and play too soon after surgery can end up with hernias, torn sutures, or suture line infections.](#) All of these may require a second surgery or costly medications. The pain medications we give can eliminate the pain from surgery, so pets are more likely to be active and happy. **PLEASE** confine your pet to a cage or small room if directed to do so, for 7 to 10 days or as directed.

As well, some pets find their incisions incredibly interesting, and begin to lick or chew at them. **Please keep your pet from licking or chewing at the incision**, as he or she could pull out sutures and cause problems. If you think your pet is licking or chewing, please contact us for solutions.

[The Doctors and Staff of Scott County Animal Hospital](#)

OPTIONAL ITEMS TO CONSIDER

OraVet dental treatment

OraVet is a barrier gel sealant applied to the teeth during anesthesia which prevents the adherence of plaque-producing bacteria to the teeth. This will reduce the development of tartar on your pet's teeth. A professional application can be performed under anesthesia, and should be continued at home using a home-care package once or twice weekly.

The ideal times to apply OraVet are immediately after a dental treatment, or on very young pets before tartar forms.

Microchip placement

Pet identification microchips are the latest technology in lost pet location. The tiny microchip (the size of a grain of rice) is implanted between your pet's shoulder blades. It lies dormant until the pet is scanned using a special reading device. At that time, the microchip number can be read by the device, and the number links through a database to your contact information. Any lost pet which is scanned can be returned to its owner using a microchip. At this time, microchips do not have GPS capabilities, so you can't track your pet on the computer – someone must actually find the pet and scan it for a microchip!

Microchips provide permanent identification, unlike collars which can be lost or removed, or tags which can fall off or be removed. It is virtually impossible for a microchip to be removed from a dog or cat. As long as you keep your contact information up to date with the registration company, your pet should be returned to you if found. The cost for registering your pet's microchip is small, and is only a one-time fee. We strongly recommend microchipping for all pets!