



Surgical Information Packet

Dear Client,

Your pet has been scheduled for a surgery or anesthetic procedure. It is our goal to prepare you for surgery day to make this experience as stress-free as possible. Please read all the enclosed information carefully. Call us if you have any questions about any of this material.

In addition to this packet, you will be given a **Treatment Plan** with information on the cost and details of your pet's specific procedure.

The packet includes this introductory letter and the **Surgery and Anesthesia Information** form.

The night before your pet's surgery:

- 1) Withhold all food and treats after 9 pm*.
- 2) Water may be left down after this time period.
- 3) Do not feed your pet breakfast the morning of surgery.
- 4) If you are currently giving medications, supplements, etc. to your pet, do not give them the morning of surgery unless otherwise instructed by the doctor.

* If your pet is an exotic animal, pocket pet, a puppy or kitten under the age of 6 months, or has a medical condition such as diabetes mellitus, the staff will give you specific instructions about withholding food and water. The doctor may want these animals to eat on the day of surgery.

On the day of surgery you will be asked to drop off your pet before 8am. Your pet will spend the whole day with us and will usually be scheduled a pick-up time before 5pm.

When you drop off your pet you will be required to fill out our **Authorization for Medical Treatment / Surgery** form. This form includes your contact information where you can be reached during the surgery day. We ask that you be available to answer your phone when we call so your pet's procedure can be done without delay.

When the surgical procedure is finished, the doctor will call you with an update on your pet's status and schedule a discharge time for later that day. Please feel free to call during the day to check on your pet. When you arrive at your scheduled pick-up time, a technician will review your pet's discharge instructions verbally and give you a written copy. If you do not understand any instructions, please do not hesitate to ask them to go over them one more time. You will then be escorted to the front lobby where the client care specialist will collect payment and be sure you do not have any other questions. Your pet will be walked to you and placed into your car if you need help with this.

We hope surgery day will be a pleasant experience. We understand it can be a stressful day for you and our goal is to make the entire experience as stress-free as possible.

Your partner in the care of your pet,
Dr. Schexneider and the Tierrasanta Veterinary Hospital Staff

Client Initials _____



Surgery and Anesthesia Information

This Surgical Information form is provided as an overview of some of the procedures that are performed on the day of surgery to prepare your pet for surgery. While he is here, your pet is being cared for by our skilled technicians and his well-being is our top concern.

Physical Examination

The doctor performs a brief physical examination and checks the pet's vitals, heart, lungs, mouth, and surgical site.

Pre-anesthetic Blood Tests

Blood tests are done prior to surgery day or in the morning after you drop off your pet for surgery. These tests help alert the doctor to conditions that may not be detected on physical examination. Conditions such as kidney and liver disease, anemias, infections, dehydration, or diabetes that may complicate the procedure will be detected with a blood test. These conditions may require changes to be made to the anesthesia drugs and the approach to surgery may need to be altered for the safety of your pet.

Intravenous (IV) Catheterization

An IV catheter may be placed in your pet's leg and a small patch of hair will be shaved to keep the area clean. The IV catheter allows us to have quick access to the circulatory system in order to deliver medicine and fluids to the patient. Fluids provide circulatory support and keep the animals hydrated, allowing for a faster recovery and a safer procedure.

Anesthesia

Your pet will receive a combination of injectable and/or inhalant medications to achieve a level of anesthesia that is safe for his age, species, and health status. For shorter procedures, sometimes only injectable anesthesia is needed and your pet will recover quickly. When gas anesthesia is needed, your pet will have a plastic tube inserted into his trachea (wind pipe) to maintain an appropriate level of anesthesia, assure he always has oxygen, and protect his lungs from aspiration of fluids.

Monitoring & Pain Management

In addition to the attention your pet receives by the doctor, your pet will always have at least one veterinary technician by his side at all times while under the effects of anesthesia until he is fully recovered. We have modern, computerized equipment to help us monitor heart rate, blood pressure, oxygen saturation, temperature, and electrocardiogram (ECG).

All surgical patients will receive pain medication prior to and after their procedures, as all surgical procedures are painful to varying degrees. Your pet may also be sent home with pain medication to aid in their recovery.

Possible Surgical Complications

We always take the above precautions to minimize the chance of post-operative complications when surgical procedures are performed.

Each procedure has its own possible complications. The following is a list of things that may occur after any surgical procedure:

- 1) Bleeding
- 2) Infection
- 3) Swelling
- 4) Suture reaction
- 5) Drainage

We hope this helps you understand what we do to minimize anesthetic risk and post-operative complications. We always have your pet's best interest at the forefront and his well-being is the ultimate goal.

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