



Pre-operative information sheet

Preparation

Please note that we require your pet to be starved overnight before they are sedated or anaesthetised. This is to reduce the risk of vomiting or regurgitating. We usually advise to feed 2/3 of their normal dinner at the usual time, then the remaining 1/3 as a small meal immediately before bedtime, eg 21:00, to last overnight. For cats, food should be removed after 21:00. No breakfast should be given, including treats. Water should be provided overnight as normal. For dogs, please take them out to toilet in the morning of the procedure but please avoid long walks especially in muddy areas, so that their coat remains relatively clean.

Admission

Your animal will be admitted into the practice between 8:30 and 9, unless otherwise specified. Please notify us if your pet is unwell, for instance has a cough, is vomiting or has diarrhoea, as this may affect whether or not we go ahead with the procedure. We will check whether your pet has any special dietary requirements, as we tend to give your animal a small amount of food after they have recovered from the anaesthesia or sedation.

Pre-anaesthetic bloods and fluids

During admission of your pet we will ask whether or not you want them to have pre-anaesthetic bloods or be given fluids during the procedure. We do not include it as standard in the cost of our procedures as they are not necessary in every case. However in some cases, we will strongly advise that one, or both, are carried out. The reasons for this include if your pet is unwell, but the operation or procedure is necessary to help treatment, or your animal is older and therefore more at risk of general anaesthetic. Taking bloods helps us diagnose any organ dysfunction that may impact how your animal processes the anaesthetic drugs, and helps us reduce the risks associated with anaesthetic, particularly in older or unwell animals. Giving intravenous fluids throughout the procedure helps support the organs, especially the kidneys, and can help maintain hydration status and enable a smoother recovery post-operatively. However, we will always act in the best interests of your pet and if there are any complications prior to or during to the procedure where the vet believes that bloods, fluids or other treatments are indicated, we reserve the right to implement this.

Post-operative laser treatment

We can offer post-operative laser treatment for all routine procedures. Class IV laser treatment has been demonstrated to reduce inflammation and pain, and improve tissue healing. Laser is suitable for most routine surgeries including dental surgeries, but the vet will advise if your pet is not a candidate for any reason. As for bloods and fluids, we do not include laser treatment in the estimate as standard, but offer it to all suitable patients. A post-operative laser session costs £10.

Estimates

If you would like to know the rough cost of the procedure your pet is having, please just let us know. We aim to be as transparent as possible in our pricing structure and can give a quote based on the expected procedure length and how involved it will be. We include post-op checks free as part of the overall cost, but if there are any associated complications, for example, infection of a surgical site, then any treatment will be on top of this. Please note that an estimate is not definite and is subject to change. Payment is required at the time of collection, unless otherwise discussed and authorised by the practice.

Discharge

Most procedures carried out will require your pet to be an inpatient just for the day. After your pet has recovered from anaesthetic or sedation, we will contact you to discuss the procedure, give instructions for aftercare and to arrange a mutually convenient time to collect them. Please ensure that you provide us with the best phone number for yourself, which you will have access to throughout the day, as in some instances we may need to speak to you before we can proceed with the procedure, for instance if we find something unexpected. Occasionally you may not hear from us within the expected timeframe – if this is the case it is likely because we are very busy, so if you have not heard from us before early afternoon, please give us a call for an update on your pet.

Resuscitation

Please note all our patients are opted into resuscitation in the event of cardiac arrest, unless their owner specifically instructs for us to opt them out. If you feel you would not wish for your pet to be resuscitated in the event of cardiac arrest, please inform us of this on admission.