

Pre-operative information sheet – Rabbits Including Ward Nurse Info

Please read this pre-operative information sheet for rabbits & guinea pigs

Prior to admission:

Please ensure your pet continues to eat and drink normally up until time of admission.

Book a day that suits both you and the clinic - we recommend that there is somebody at home for the first 24 hours following the procedure. Make sure we have your correct contact details and your preferred means of contact. We will need to be informed if your pet is on any medication and when the last dose was given. Please bring medications in with you. If your pet has a companion at home, we recommend bringing them both in, to minimize stress during hospitalization.

We recommend bringing in a 'lunch pack' with your pet's favorite foods so we can try to ensure they are eating as soon as possible after the procedure.

Contact:

We aim to give you a phone call once your pet is awake and to arrange an appointment to collect at this stage, but remember all animals will have different rates of recovery and we recommend only taking them home when we are happy that they are ready. We can text you with an update at lunchtime if you would prefer this means of contact.

Pre-anaesthetic blood tests:

Screening your pets' blood prior to giving an anaesthetic is always a good idea as it can significantly reduce medical risk and provide baseline levels, which become part of his/her medical records for future reference. We recommend that all animals over the age of 8 have these blood tests prior to a general anaesthetic. These tests do incur an additional cost. If the tests are within the normal ranges then we can proceed with confidence, knowing that anaesthetic risk is minimised. If the tests are not in the normal ranges then it may mean that we can alter the drugs we use, the procedure or take other precautions to reduce the risk of complications.



What is involved?

Pre-anaesthetic blood testing involves a small sample of blood being taken from a vein. Blood is tested for liver and kidney abnormalities, diabetes and protein levels. The red blood cell numbers are then checked to make sure your pet is not anaemic, and platelet levels are measured to ensure they are able to clot their blood normally. Intravenous fluids may be given through an intravenous catheter, which is generally placed in a vein in the ear or leg. This is secured in place and then sterile fluids are given before, during and after the surgery to assist hydration and recovery. It is worth noting that both preoperative blood testing and intravenous fluid therapy may not be covered by insurance policies.

General Anaesthetic:

The anaesthetics that we use here are similar, and in many cases the same, as are used in human medicine. Adverse risks are higher in rabbits & guineapigs but we take every measure to minimize this risk

Intravenous Fluid Therapy:

The drugs and agents used for anaesthesia can affect your pets blood pressure, by placing a patient on intravenous fluids, we can elevate the blood pressure to a normal level. This reduces the stress to the heart and other major organs making anaesthesia safer. This is particularly important in elderly, ill and young patients. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask either one of the vets looking after your pet or one of our nurses who will be only too pleased to help.

ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES AT SPECIAL REQUEST WHILE YOUR PET IS UNDER ANAESTHETIC:

Ears and nails:

If specifically requested, we will examine your pets' ears and nails while sleeping. If there is ear disease present, further tests this can be done at an additional cost. We can provide a complimentary nail clip if required.

Microchipping:

This can also be carried out while your pet is anaesthetised.

Post-operative feeding:

When you get your pet home, please ensure that they eat as soon as possible. If he or she doesn't eat, you will need to syringe feed them, as it is incredibly important that small pets do not stop eating. This will be discussed at time of discharge, if needed, our nurses will be very happy to demonstrate syringe feeding to you.



Pet Health Club:

Please ask for details on joining our Pet Health Club. An annual cost saving plan, split into monthly instalments. Membership allows you to spread the cost of your pets' annual vaccinations, along with year-long protection from fleas, ticks and worms, including lungworm. There are many cost benefits including:

- 20% discount on neutering
- Vaccination course or booster
- Kennel cough vaccination
- 2nd health-check at 6 months
- All year worm treatment
- All year flea treatment (2 x flystrike for rabbits)
- Cost price food on selected diets.
- Nail clipping with a nurse
- Anal gland emptying with a nurse
- Annual urine test (this covers Katkor but not cystocentesis or catheterisation)
- 10% off Dentistry and Pet Passports
- 10% off Pet Shop sales and Geriatric screening

The average savings per year are:

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|-----------------|------|
| For your cat | £180 |
| For your dog | £190 |
| For your rabbit | £77 |



WARD NURSE LINE: 01553 771457 - Option 5 (9AM-6PM)

- We understand how concerned you are about your pet today. Please use the above number to enquire about your pet's progress whilst they are staying with us.
- If the ward nurse is with a patient, they will be unable to answer your call personally, but please leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.
- Long-term patients can be visited with the vet's permission, between 9am and 6pm Monday to Friday, but we regret we cannot allow patients to be visited outside of these hours. We also cannot allow visits to infectious or possible infectious pets. Please ring first to arrange a time.

Although we aim to complete all procedures before 6pm, we also see emergency cases needing urgent and life-saving surgery. This may cause delays for your pet. We hope you will understand if this happens. We will try to inform you as soon as we can if your pet's procedure is delayed. Please make sure that you have left the correct contact number for today or any alternative contact details.

- When you collect your pet, please bring a car if you are unable to carry your pet home.
- Have ready somewhere quiet and comfortable for your pet to settle down when at home, as they may be sleepy.
- Certain pain relief drugs can occasionally cause your pet to become agitated and sometimes vocal. This is temporary and should pass.
- Please follow our directions regarding exercise and feeding.
- We have staff in the hospital 24 hours a day. The frequency of overnight checks your pet will receive will be determined by the veterinary surgeon's clinical assessment, should an overnight stay be needed.
- Estimates may not include hospitalisation and treatment fees, which are added daily, so please ask for an update of costs whenever you call us.

