

CLIENT INSTRUCTIONS

GENERAL ANAESTHESIA AND STANDING ANAESTHESIA FOR SURGERIES

Before Surgery:- Please ensure your horse/pony or donkey are clean (groomed and bathed where possible) and any personal belongings are named and cleaned before admittance.

The risks of the specific surgery that your horse is undergoing will be discussed with you prior to the procedure.

Insurance - If your horse is insured and the surgery is planned, you should inform the insurance company that we intend to perform a surgery and, where appropriate, check that the insurers are prepared to cover the costs of this. This should be done in advance of the surgery date.

Vaccination:- All horses undergoing surgery **MUST** be up-to-date with their tetanus vaccines.

Passport:- Please check your horse's passport prior to your horse's surgery and let us know if your horse is overdue a tetanus vaccine.

Feeding:- For most surgeries, horses can be fed as normal but food is usually withheld the morning of the procedure. There are certain specific situations when your horse will need to have food withheld for longer (such as Gastrosopes) these will be discussed by the Veterinary Surgeon.

Personal items:- Please bring any rugs, bandages and head collars that your horse/pony or donkey require for their stay. Hay and feed are provided but if your horse has specific dietary requirement or medications please bring these with your horse, pony or donkey.

Consent Forms: - Please complete the hospital admittance form via our website found under Hospital - Hospital admittance **ahead** of the day of admittance. Consent forms will be presented to you on arrival via our reception team, please read them carefully and member of our admit team will guide you through the permissions process.

The Reception team will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Procedure:- An intravenous catheter will be placed prior to surgery in most horses. This generally involves clipping a small area on the neck. Please let us know if you do not consent to clipping the neck.

General anaesthesia:- (making horses fully unconscious) Whilst there is always a slight risk with general anaesthesia, we have a well trained anaesthesia team and horses are constantly monitored. Should there be any specific considerations, these will be discussed with you at the hospital, please do ask if you have any additional questions. The anaesthetist will examine your horse before they sedate and administer a pre-medication, this usually includes antibiotics and pain relief.

- Anaesthesia is induced intravenously within our padded induction room, your horse/pony or donkey is then closely monitored and supported through to sleep.
- They are then moved into the operating suite and on to the operating table ready for surgery. On most occasions, hair will need clipping for the surgery site and for other areas to accommodate anaesthesia monitoring equipment.
- After surgery has ended, your horse, pony or donkey are moved back into the padded room to be closely monitored and aided through to conscious recovery.

Surgical procedures are performed under general anaesthesia if they cannot be performed in a safe, careful and efficient manner under standing sedation.

Owners are not allowed to watch the surgical procedure or see their horse while under general anaesthesia, nor in recovery.

Standing surgery: - Standing surgery (deep sedation and standing for operation) also often requires additional nerve blocks (local anaesthesia) during the surgical procedure.



Recovery: - Most horses undergoing surgery will be hospitalised at least overnight for monitoring, to ensure that they recover well from the surgery.

In the scenario that they are discharged the same day, they can only be transported when fully recovered from the sedatives and food and sometimes water will be withheld until they are fully awake.

Post General Anaesthesia considerations:-Anaesthetic and sedation drugs have a tendency to slow bowel movements down, which might increase the risk for colic. Watch your horse carefully for any signs of colic in the days following general anaesthesia and make sure that they are passing manure.

Visiting:-We generally ask people not to visit their horse on the same day as their surgery. Horse's are profoundly sedated after surgery and it is important they are allowed time to rest and recover from the anaesthetic. During their time with us your horse, pony or donkey shall receive plenty of TLC from the team at the hospital. For longer stays visiting can be arranged usually between 17.00 and 18.00 *alternate times by arrangement.

The Pool House Equine Team