

RATHGAEL VETERINARY CLINIC LTD,
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Pre-operative information sheet – Canine/Feline

Prior to admission:

Make sure your pet has had a chance to go to the toilet before 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.

Contact:

We shall give you a phone call once your pet is awake and it should be possible to arrange an appointment to collect at this stage, but remember all animals will have different rates of recovery and we will only allow 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. Make sure you have a means of transport home as your pet will be too sleepy to walk. Please fast your pet as directed from the evening before. Do not withhold water at any stage.

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 7 have these blood tests prior to a general anaesthetic at 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.

General Anaesthetic:

The anaesthetics that we use here are similar, and in many cases the same, as are used in human medicine. They are gold standard in the veterinary field and the risk from receiving an anaesthetic remains very low in our patients. One of the less welcome effects of anaesthetics and sedations is the reduction in blood pressure (called hypotension). The deeper or longer the anaesthetic the lower the blood pressure can go. When this happens, the body is under increased stress to try and keep the blood at an adequate pressure. This makes the organs work much harder. Young, old and sick animals are especially at risk from this, as their organs are already working at a high capacity. If the blood pressure is reduced for a long period of time then the organs can become damaged, aggravating disease which has not yet become apparent. If severe hypotension occurs, the brain and heart can be damaged. To help prevent this happening we use intravenous fluid therapy.

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, reducing likelihood of circulatory failure during anaesthesia. Elderly, ill and young patients find it harder to cope with hypotension and not only does it increase their risk from general anaesthesia but prolongs their recovery. If there is an underlying kidney problem then the drop in blood pressure may cause kidney failure that

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cannot necessarily be repaired. If intravenous fluids are used the flow of blood to the kidneys is stronger, reducing risk of damage and helping flush the anaesthetic out of the system post operatively.

What is involved?

Pre-anaesthetic blood testing involves a small sample of blood being taken from a vein in the leg or neck. Blood is tested for liver and kidney damage, diabetes, protein levels. The red blood cell numbers are then checked to make sure your pet is not anaemic. Intravenous fluids are given through an intravenous catheter, which is placed in a vein in the leg. This is secured in place and then a type of sterile saline solution is given before, during and after the surgery to assist recovery. Both preoperative blood testing and intravenous fluid therapy will often be covered by insurance policies. 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 WHILE YOUR PET IS UNDER ANAESTHETIC:

Ears and nails:

Similarly, we will examine your pets' ears and nails while sleeping. If the ears require plucking or cleaning this can be done at a small additional cost, depending on what's involved. We can provide a complimentary nail clip if required.

Microchipping:

Microchipping is now compulsory for dogs and we recommend that all cats are microchipped for purposes of identification. This can also be carried out while your pet is anaesthetised.

Post-operative feeding:

When you get your pet home, he or she will need to be fed a bland, easily digestible food such as chicken, or scrambled eggs with boiled rice, if the same day as the anaesthetic. We can provide a "recovery pack" for your convenience, which will suffice for a couple of days post op. Neutered animals have lower energy requirements than before neutering and for this reason Hills and Natures Range produce a neutered cat and dog food range to help prevent weight gain in your neutered pet. Please ask us for details on this food if you would like to purchase some to try - it comes with a money back guarantee if your pet does not like it!

Pet Health Club:

Please ask for details on joining our Pet Health Club. Membership allows you to spread the cost of your pets' annual vaccinations, along with yearlong protection from fleas' ticks and worms, including lungworms. There are many cost benefits including: **NO JOINING FEE 20% OFF NEUTERING**

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