

**Vet Care Athy
Gallows Hill
Athy
Co. Kildare.
Tel: (059) 8631498
Fax: (059) 8631660**

ANAESTHESIA AND YOUR PET - WHAT TO EXPECT

- Your pet will be required to fast prior to anaesthesia, in so far as is possible. Food should be withheld from 12 midnight the night prior to the elective procedure. It is important to make water available to your pet.
- Prior to admission of your pet, you will be asked to read and sign a form of consent which gives us permission to anaesthetize your pet and carry out any procedures necessary.
- Upon admission, a thorough clinical examination will be carried out on your pet and an intravenous catheter is placed in your pet's forelimb. This provides immediate venous access and serves as a route of administration for the general anaesthetic.
- Pre-anaesthetic sedatives are used prior to general anaesthesia to reduce the amount of anaesthetic used.
- We use modern anaesthetic machines and the safest available intravenous and gas anaesthetics.
- We tailor the type of anaesthetics we use to the individual patient. For example, if your pet is compromised due to illness or injury and an anaesthetic is necessary, we have a variety of anaesthetic combinations we can use to ensure your pet has a safe anaesthetic and reduce any potential risk.
- We have fully qualified and highly trained nursing staff dedicated to anaesthesia and theatre work. Your pet is always monitored closely prior to, during and after anaesthesia until the patient is fully recovered. In addition, we have blood pressure, oxygen level and ECG monitors to inform us of your pet's anaesthetic performance during surgery.
- In addition, we can also offer a pre-anaesthetic blood test. This is carried out prior to the administration of any anaesthetic agents and will give an indication of liver and kidney function.
- As we cannot eliminate the possibility of pre-existing medical conditions complicating or compromising your pet's health during anaesthesia, we highly recommend this blood test to detect any problems which may not be evident on a routine physical examination.

- We have a state of the art in-house laboratory and can obtain an accurate blood result within 20-30 minutes.
- The result of this blood test gives us invaluable information which may lead us to either adjust the dose or type of anaesthetic used. It may, in rare circumstances, lead us to delay the procedure until after further diagnostic tests are carried out.
- We do recommend every pet to have an annual blood screen done from the age of two years old. This serves as an early indicator of organ compromise and some diseases. Also it will give us a marker for future reference if needed. This blood test is available to all patients and if not done annually, is highly recommended for cats and dogs over the age of 7 years.
- It is important to be aware that there is a risk with every anaesthetic, as is the case in human medicine. However, our vets and nurses are highly skilled and trained and keep up to date with advances in anaesthesia by completing continuing educational training throughout the year.

Directors: Kevin Maher, Andrew Doona, Tom Spillane