

### **Anesthetic Procedures:**

Common elective procedures requiring general anesthesia include spays, castrations, and dental cleanings. While general anesthesia has become routine, it is not without risk. Appropriate standards of practice and monitoring help to minimize this risk and better ensure patient safety. Whether you choose to have your pet undergo anesthesia at our facility or elsewhere, we strongly recommend you ask the questions outlined below. The answer to each question at our facility is provided.

- 1. Will my pet have an IV catheter in place at the time of the procedure in the event of needing emergency medications or IV fluids?**
  - a. We place an IV catheter in every patient undergoing anesthesia. This is because some patients can have adverse reactions of anesthetic medications, which can range from mild to severe. An IV catheter allows us to administer emergency drugs that help to treat these adverse reactions, which can save your pet's life if such a reaction should occur. It also allows us to administer IV fluids throughout the procedure to ensure proper blood pressure is maintained.
- 2. Will my pet be directly monitored from the start of anesthesia, throughout the procedure, and while the wake up?**
  - a. Yes. We have two dedicated anesthesia technicians in addition to the Doctor to monitor your pet throughout the duration of anesthesia and into recovery until your pet is awake.
- 3. Will my pet have an endotracheal tube placed to protect the airway during the procedure?**
  - a. Yes. An endotracheal tube serves several purposes. It allows for better delivery of oxygen and anesthetic gas to the lungs, which results in a safer and smoother anesthetic procedure. It also protects the airway in the event that your pet regurgitates or vomits, which can occur when anesthetic is administered. If an endotracheal tube was not in place, any regurgitated or vomited material could go down the trachea (windpipe) and enter the lungs to result in pneumonia.
- 4. Will my pet be hooked up to a heart monitor (EKG) and respiratory monitor (capnograph and pulse oximeter) during the procedure?**
  - a. Yes. We use an EKG to ensure your pet has a normal heart rate and rhythm. If an abnormality occurs, we can use the EKG to better determine what the problem may be, which allows us to treat the underlying abnormality. We use a capnography and pulse oximeter to ensure your pet is receiving sufficient oxygen and breathing appropriately.
- 5. Will my pet be hooked up to a blood pressure monitor?**
  - a. Yes. We use a non-invasive blood pressure monitor that takes a reading every 3 minutes. This allows us to make necessary anesthetic adjustments to ensure the blood pressure remains in an appropriate and safe range.
- 6. Will my pet's temperature be controlled & monitored while under anesthesia?**
  - a. Yes. Our primary surgery table is heated to help prevent hypothermia while your pet is undergoing the procedure. This is especially important for small animals, as they lose heat at an accelerated rate. We periodically check body temperature, and will use additional heating methods (i.e. heating pads) if necessary. Such heating methods may also be used on non-heated tables.
- 7. Will my pet be in a dedicated sterile surgery suite for the procedure?**
  - a. Yes. Even routine procedures are conducted inside our surgery suite to help maintain a sterile environment. Only "dirty" procedures are performed in a different, yet clean, area to prevent contamination of the surgery suite.
- 8. Will my pet have pre-operative bloodwork performed to determine if they are at a higher risk for an adverse event during anesthesia?**
  - a. Yes. All patients that undergo anesthesia have routine bloodwork performed to ensure they can metabolize/breakdown anesthetics and do not have any underlying illness that would make anesthesia unsafe. If mild abnormalities are detected, we can alter the anesthetic drugs that are used to better suite your pet and help minimize any potential risk.