



## **SURGERY AND ANESTHESIA AT THE LODI VETERINARY HOSPITAL**

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### **No food after 10pm the night prior to surgery. Water is okay.**

Our goal at the Lodi Veterinary Hospital is to provide you with the very best medical and surgical care available along with the necessary information to help you with decisions concerning your pet's health care. If you are considering an elective surgery for your pet such as a spay, neuter, declaw, or if your pet requires surgery for a medical reason, it is important that you understand what is involved in surgery and anesthesia.

#### 1) PRESURGICAL ADMISSION APPOINTMENT

All animals admitted for surgery have a presurgical appointment the morning of surgery. At this scheduled time the surgery technician will advise you on what lab work will be needed as a presurgical screen, discuss the procedure, and provide a medical care plan with an associated cost. At this appointment the technician and doctor are available to answer any questions or concerns you may have, please make the most of this opportunity.

#### 2) PRESURGICAL SCREEN

A presurgical screen is blood work analyzed to help detect any underlying problems with your pet's health, or any conditions that may alter your pet's surgery. This testing is necessary for all animals at various levels depending on your pet's age and physical condition.

#### 3) VACCINATIONS

For the protection of your pet, other patients, and our team members, current vaccinations are required for all hospitalized animals. Dogs and cats must have a current Rabies and Distemper vaccination. If your pet is not current, we require vaccinations to be up to date at least one week prior to the scheduled surgery. If a doctor deems this is not medically possible, we encourage vaccination as soon as medically possible.

#### 4.) SURGERY

At the Lodi Veterinary Hospital, we make every effort to provide a sterile (germ free) environment for our surgeries. Two surgical suites are available with stainless steel tables. All of our instruments are steam sterilized in packs and one pack is used per surgery. Our surgeons wear scrub suits, gowns, gloves, masks and hats similar to what you see in a human hospital. The surgical site is draped in single use, sterile drapes. This environment reduces post operation complications such as infection and prevents spread of disease from one pet to the next.

#### 5.) ANESTHETIC

The anesthesia used for your pet is determined by your pet's species, breed, size, age, any preexisting medical conditions, and the surgical procedure to be done. Two basic types of anesthetic are available:

A.) Gas - Isoflurane gas, which is the safest anesthetic gas available, is used at our hospital. Isoflurane is most commonly used for procedures at LVH and is used in human medicine as well. Your pet will usually be conscious and sitting up within fifteen minutes after the procedure.

B.) Injectable - Injectable anesthetics require less restraint and provide good anesthesia with a slightly longer recovery. Anesthetics of this type are desirable in cats which may not like to be restrained or may become fractious and injure themselves if recovery occurs too quickly. Injectable anesthetics are metabolized in the liver and kidneys, making it important that the animal is healthy prior to surgery.

#### 6.) MONITORING

There is always some risk when a patient is undergoing surgery and general anesthesia. We attempt to minimize that risk by using the safest anesthetic available, sterile technique, careful patient monitoring and advanced monitoring equipment such as a pulse oximeter and doppler blood pressure monitor. A certified technician and veterinary technician assistant monitor all patients during anesthesia and recovery. Technical equipment such as an ECG machine to monitor the heart, oxygen to support breathing, and x-ray machine are available and used if needed. Emergency drugs are readily available, as well as other doctors and support team members.

#### 7.) NEW CLIENTS/PETS TO LVH: PRE-SURGICAL PHYSICAL EXAM

If you have a pet that needs surgery and we have not seen them here in the past, we will need to schedule a pre-surgical physical exam to establish a doctor/patient relationship. At that appointment the doctor will assess your pet's health, give any vaccinations that are needed prior to surgery, conduct the pre-surgical blood screen, and provide a medical care plan for the upcoming surgery. At the end of this appointment we will schedule your pet for surgery at your earliest convenience.

#### 8.) AFTER YOUR PET GOES HOME

Depending on the procedure that your pet is having done, there are things that you should be aware of when you bring your pet home. With any surgical procedure, reduced activity is a must to ensure the proper healing of incision sites. Incision sites should also be monitored daily for redness, discharge and any excessive licking. Occasionally, pets going home the same day of a procedure may be a bit quiet or groggy from their anesthesia. If this is the case for your pet, be sure to avoid stairs and slippery floors for the rest of the evening.

*We encourage pet owners to tour our facility. Unlike human hospitals, veterinary hospitals and procedures are not tightly monitored and regulated. Basing your choice on cost alone may not be what is best for your pet. We are proud of the quality of our services and feel it is important that you feel as comfortable as possible leaving your pet in our care. Please contact us if you have any further questions or concerns.*