



New York Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center

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SO YOUR PET IS GOING TO HAVE SURGERY

Summary

- Pre-surgery exam and diagnostics are needed.
- Be sure your surgeon knows all medications your pet is on.
- Stop food at midnight & pick up water when you wake up.
- Continue all medications as normal unless otherwise directed.
- Drop off early in the morning or the night before at no extra cost.
- We will be shaving your pet's fur in various locations
- Your pet may not be hungry for a couple of days after surgery.
- Post-surgical care will focus on pain management & avoiding infection.
- After care is vital for your pet's recovery.
- An e-collar can keep them from chewing at their surgery site.
- Ask any questions about your pet's medications and/or treatments.
- Let us know right away if there are any concerns.

Pre-Anesthetic Exam, Blood Work and X-rays

It is always vital that prior to any anesthetic procedure we have an up-to-date physical examination and blood test results. A pre-surgical physical exam will always take place the same day as the surgery. The blood work will allow the doctor to identify potential concerns and help them make adjustments to provide the safest care possible. How close to the day of surgery this blood work must be performed can vary depending on the patient's age and health status. Regardless, all pre-operative blood work must be done within one month of the surgery. Your surgeon will let you know how close to the procedure it must be performed.

X-rays and pre-operative blood work can be done at your regular veterinarian.

The night before the surgery

Any medications that your pet is currently taking should be continued as normal unless specified differently by your surgeon. Be sure to make a list of what your pet is taking, when and how they are taking it.

Food and Water

Feed your pet as normal and then pick up any food or treats at midnight. They can still have some water overnight and remove the water when you awake. Patients should not have a full stomach when they arrive.



On the day of surgery

The time of surgeries are established after all pets have been admitted that day. The times may be altered in the event that an unexpected emergency arrives. We request an early drop off so that we can begin pre-surgical procedures.



List of what to bring in with
your pet at Drop Off

- Any medications they are currently taking.
- Filled out Admittance Form (optional)
- Special food or treats (optional)

We recommend that you do not leave any leashes, collars, carriers or any other personal items as we cannot guarantee their safe return.



Our Surgeons

Dr. Allan Carb

Dr. Arnold Lesser

Dr. Patrick Maguire

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Why are we shaving so much of your pet's fur?

We must shave the sites completely in order to be able to properly sterilize the surgical site as well as for the IV catheter & other locations.

Once they start waking up.

After the surgery the surgical technician will transfer your pet to an assigned kennel and continue to monitor them as they awaken from anesthesia. The breathing tube will be removed during this time. There can be soreness or discomfort for a day or two from the endotracheal tube that can make some patients reluctant to eat.

After the surgery.

The surgeon will have a personalized treatment plan for your pet after surgery and will consist of instructions for the on-going assessment and care of your pet with the intention of meeting your pet's pain management and treatment needs.

Your pet may not defecate after surgery for 1–3 days. Do not be concerned unless they are straining to defecate. They should urinate within 24 hours of the surgery.

We discourage visiting the night after surgery. It can be very stressful for your pet for you to visit and then leave. It is critical that visitation not interfere with your pet's recovery nor with our ability to provide care to other patients, including unforeseen emergencies. We appreciate that you have a busy schedule and we will try and accommodate you as best we can. Visitation is always at the discretion of the doctor.

When can your pet go home?

They can not be discharged until after the morning team has made the final assessment based on the overnight team's observations.



At home after-care

After all surgeries there will be the need for aftercare provided at home. It is critical to your pet's recovery that you understand and are able to provide this care. At the time of discharge the technician will go over all medications, treatments and restrictions. You will be provided a written discharge instructions sheet.

You have made a huge investment in your pet's health care. It is vital that you are able to continue this care at home and that you do so consistently. We are here for you to make sure you have the proper tools. If you are unable to give medications or doses are getting missed, please contact us for guidance.

If they don't get all the medications, all the times they need it, for all the days they need, it may slow down or stop recovery.

What to expect down the road

All surgical patients will need to come back for a recheck appointment. The recheck exam is done at no cost. If there is any follow up diagnostics such as radiographs, blood work or bandage changes, there may be charges for these services. Any additional medications will usually incur charges. If you have any questions about this please ask your surgeon.

Depending on your pet's surgery, you may be asked to return with them for more than a standard recheck appointment. This could include: physical therapy, hydro-therapy, splint changes, gait analysis, etc. the costs of these anticipated services are usually included on the original estimate.

A critical factor in the success of any surgical procedure is the healing process. It is *very* important that you follow all post-operative *physical restrictions* and "*at home*" treatments, as *this* is an extremely vital part of your pet's healing. It is *very* important to supervise and use e-collars as necessary as well as adhere to physical restrictions (play, exercise, jumping, running, stairs, etc.) to avoid any complications such as: post-operative infection, re-injury and self-mutilation of the surgical site.

Please be aware that any complications would involve additional care and possible charges.

Is the surgery guaranteed to work?

Unfortunately no one can guarantee any medical procedure. Like all medical treatments there is no way to predict with 100% certainty how your pet will respond to medications, how well they will heal or whether time and activity will result in a full recovery.

Thank you for trusting us to help you and your pet.