

Elkhorn Veterinary Clinic Pre-surgical Instructions

Patient: _____ Date of Surgery: _____

Type of Surgery: _____

Please read and follow the steps outlined to better prepare your pet for surgery.

Depending on the type of surgery your animal is receiving, you will be presented with a few options the morning you drop off your pet.

You can research these options on our website. You can also log into your "Pet Portal" from our website and look at the Care Guides.

be sure we have your email address on file

Pre-Anesthetic Testing

There is always a possibility a physical exam alone will not identify all of your pet's health problems. We strongly recommend a pre-anesthetic profile (*a combination of tests*) be performed prior to anesthesia. The tests we recommend are similar to and equally important, as those your own physician would run if you were to undergo anesthesia. It is important to understand that a pre-anesthetic profile does not guarantee the absence of anesthetic complications. It may however, greatly reduce the risk of complications as well as identify medical conditions that could require medical treatment in the future.

Additional Pain Relief

Our anesthetic protocols are aimed at providing safe and effective means of anesthesia and pain relief before, during, and after a surgical procedure. This is usually adequate, however, pets, like people differ greatly in their tolerance for, and reaction to pain. Additional post-operative analgesics can be started in the hospital with a simple injection, and oral medications may be dispensed to be given at home.

LASER Surgery

The LASER seals tiny nerve endings and pain receptors which helps your pet's recovery with less pain. The LASER also seals small blood vessels which reduces the amount of bleeding during surgery. With the use of the LASER, your pet should recover more comfortably.

OraVet Plaque Prevention Gel

Periodontal disease is the most common disease affecting companion animals. In an effort to prevent disease from returning, we will be applying OraVet, a sealant meant to prevent the buildup of plaque and bacteria, to your pet's teeth during the dental procedure. This product has been shown to be very effective in preventing the return of dental disease in pets and can be applied to your pet at home in order to continue the protection.

Prior to surgery:

- Vaccinations must be current for elective surgeries.
- Do not feed your pet after 8:00pm the night before surgery. (*Water is okay to give throughout the night*)

Day of surgery:

- Please drop off your pet between 7:30am and 8:30am the morning of your pet's surgery.
- The doctor and technician will be available that morning to meet with you and your pet to discuss the surgery and go over any questions or concerns you may have.
- Preparation: the fur surrounding the surgical area will be shaved and the skin scrubbed with an antiseptic. The equipment used is sterilized and the surgeon scrubs using aseptic technique, and wears sterile gloves, gowns, masks, and surgical caps during the procedure.
- Anesthesia: a local and/or general anesthesia will be used during the procedure.
- Monitoring: pulse/respiration and other vital signs will be monitored during the surgery.
- A technician or receptionist will call you after the surgery is complete and your pet is awake to let you know how the surgery went and the time you will be able to pick up your pet.
- Both the staff and the veterinarian will check your pet routinely during the hospital stay. A technician will meet with you before you take your pet home and give you post-surgical instructions.

Elkhorn Veterinary Clinic, Ltd.

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