

## **Pre Anaesthetic Instructions for Your Pet**

**Pet:    Client:**

### **Your Pet & Anaesthesia**

No anaesthetic is risk free, but we do everything we can to limit the risk & to reduce the stresses & strains. This leaflet is designed to help you understand how we intend to care for your pet through the process.

### **Pre-Anaesthetic Blood Sampling**

- Many Owners are concerned about their pet having an anaesthetic. In order to minimise any anaesthetic risks we will examine your pet fully before their operation. However, there may be clinical problems that are not evident physically but may be detected by a pre- anaesthetic blood test. This can help as further precautions can be taken to limit the anaesthetic risk.
- Blood screening profiles are NOT mandatory. They are available on request & if the Veterinary Surgeon in charge of your pets care believes them to be necessary.
- These tests are performed in our laboratory prior to the operation and anaesthetic. If the vet has any concerns regarding the results these will be discussed with you prior to your pets' anaesthetic.

### **Admission To The Surgery**

- To avoid the risk of food regurgitation during anaesthesia please ensure your pet has had nothing to eat from 8pm the evening before admittance.
- All pets may have drinking water up until the time of admission.
- Bring dogs in on a lead with a collar or halti & all other pets in a suitable basket or cage. Please give them the opportunity to defecate & urinate before bringing them into the practice.
- On the day of the surgery your pet will be admitted by the veterinary surgeon performing the procedure at a previously arranged time (usually between 8.00 – 8.30am). Please alert us to any recent illness, injury or anything else that concerns you. Also feel free to bring to our attention any problems such as overlong claws, bad teeth or matted hair. We will be happy to discuss these with you & remedy the problem if possible. We strongly recommend that your pet is fully vaccinated, identi-chipped and insured.
- Please allow 5-15mins for this process so that a consent form can be signed & contact telephone numbers acquired.
- You are able to phone the surgery at any time during your animals stay with us, using the number below. We will phone you after the operation has been completed to inform you of how the operation has been & to arrange a time for your pet to go home. If you have not received a phone call before 2pm then please do contact us.

**We look forward to seeing you & your pet on**

### **About cat spays**

Spaying a cat is a surgical procedure that involves a full general anaesthetic and removing the female reproductive organs (ovaries and uterus). This means that your cat will never be able to have kittens and she will not come into season and not call. The benefits of having your cat spayed include wandering less, reducing risks of accidents and reduced risk of disease including Feline Aids (FIV) and Feline Leukaemia. Additionally as the uterus is removed there is no risk of developing pyometra, a very serious problem requiring emergency surgery where the uterus fills with pus, and are also more likely to suffer from mammary cancer.

Once anaesthetised, your cat will have the hair clipped off her left flank and the site cleaned so it is sterile. The veterinary surgeon will make an incision going into the abdomen itself, about 1 inch long. Once inside, the uterus and ovaries are identified and the ligaments that hold the ovaries in place in the abdomen and the cervix are tied to prevent bleeding and the uterus and ovaries removed. The vet will ensure there is no internal bleeding, and then stitch the abdomen closed.

### **General anaesthetic risks:**

There are always risks involved with any general anaesthetic; these risks are minimal, but nevertheless you need to be aware of them, before we undergo the above procedure. These uncommon risks include anaphylaxis (an allergic reaction to the anaesthetic medication); seizures and in extremely rare cases death. Although these risks exist their occurrence is unusual and our experienced team, excellent facilities and practice protocols are all in place to reduce these risks even further. If you have any concerns please discuss this with one of the team.

### **Complications specific for cat spays**

Below are the complications that are specific to cat spays, that you need to look out for. Again, they are all rare, but if you are concerned at all, please call the practice.

- Wound breakdown
  - This usually occurs when your cat licks her wound. Sometimes a further surgery may be required to stitch the wound closed again. We will provide an Elizabethan collar for your cat to go home with to help prevent this
- Ovarian remnant syndrome
  - If a portion of ovary is left behind in the abdomen this can still produce hormones and so your cat will act as though she is coming into season, although she cannot become pregnant
- Infection
  - Usually from licking of the wound. This will necessitate antibiotic treatment. It is essential you attend your 3 day post-op check so that if this occurs, it can be detected early and treated
- Seroma
  - A fluid swelling around the surgical site. This will often resolve with time and anti-inflammatory medication
- Haemorrhage
  - Bleeding into the abdomen. This usually occurs if the cat does 'too much too soon' and a tie comes off the blood vessels that were tied off. This condition requires surgery to go back into the abdomen and find the source of the bleeding and stop it
- Peritonitis
  - Infection in the abdomen

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