

## **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 Dog Castrations**

Castrating a dog is a surgical procedure that involves a full general anaesthetic and removal of both testicles which removes the male hormone testosterone. This means that the dog will never be able to reproduce, reduces the chances of him roaming, and reduces the risks of certain diseases for example prostatic disease and testicular tumours. Dogs can be castrated from 6 months old.

Once anaesthetised, your pet will have the hair clipped around his scrotum and prepuce and the site cleaned so that it is sterile. The veterinary surgeon will make an incision going into the skin above the scrotum and the testicles exposed. Both testicles will have the blood supply tied off and the testicles will then be removed leaving the scrotum present. The vet will ensure there is no bleeding, then stitch the skin 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 dog castrates**

Below are complications that are specific to dog castration, 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 the dog licks his wound. Sometimes a further surgery may be required to stitch the wound closed again. We will provide an Elizabethan collar for your dog to go home with to help prevent this
- 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
- Inguinal Hernia
  - This is where the abdominal organs or fat enter the inguinal canal and protrude under the skin around the scrotal region; it can look like a swelling initially. If this is the case surgery will be required to close the inguinal canal.
- Seroma
  - A fluid swelling around the surgical site that can extend down the legs. This will often resolve with time and anti-inflammatory medication.
- Haemorrhage
  - Bleeding into the scrotum. This usually occurs if the dog 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 scrotum and find the source of the bleeding and stop it