

## **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 Thyroidectomies**

Thyroidectomy in cats is most commonly indicated to treat hyperthyroidism and a thyroidectomy is a very effective treatment option for hyperthyroid cats. Surgical treatment of hyperthyroidism in cats offers permanent cure without long term medical management. Your pet will have the fur clipped on their neck and the site surgically cleaned. There will be a single incision made down the midline of the neck, the muscles will be dissected. The thyroid blood vessels will be tied off to prevent bleeding and then the thyroid gland removed. The muscle will be stitched back together which will dissolve and then the skin will be stitched with sutures to remove.

### **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 of Thyroidectomy**

- Horner's syndrome.
  - This presents as pupils of differing size and a head tilt and occurs if one of the nerves in the neck is damaged during the operation. This is a rare complication and is not life threatening but if you notice these changes contact us.
- Laryngeal paralysis
  - Although incredibly rare there is a risk that during the surgery one of the nerves in the neck can be damaged and this prevents the larynx for opening and closing effectively. This often presents as a cough during drinking/eating.
- Hypocalcemia (low blood calcium)
  - This occurs as a result of parathyroid gland injury during thyroid surgery, because both glands are extremely closely associated to one another. If this occurs long term medication may be required.
- Wound breakdown
  - This usually occurs when your pet licks or scratches the wound, because of the region of the wound a collar cannot be provided so your pet needs to be monitored closely.
- Haemorrhage
  - There are several large vessels surrounding the thyroid gland, haemorrhage usually occurs when the ligature slip off these vessels and will present as a swelling under the chin. Contact us as soon as possible if you notice this.
- Infection
  - 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