*If your Pet is having any type of surgical procedure please take a moment to look over Surgery expectations and spay and neuter information below.*

**Surgery: What to expect:**

Even though there is some risk with any anesthetic procedure or surgery, we’re up with the finest postoperative care anywhere. How do we do it? Complete examinations – We’ll examine your furry family member from nose to tail before surgery, upon recovering from anesthesia and two weeks after the operation to be sure your pet is in good health going in to the procedure and healing properly afterward.

*What happens before surgery*? A pre-anesthetic examination is always performed on the day of surgery. Comprehensive laboratory analysis – Our lab analysis includes an internal organ function screen and a complete blood count, which help us find any preexisting conditions that could cause complications during anesthesia, surgery or recovery. An IV catheter is placed in either the front or hind limb so fluids and medications can be administered. Once the procedure begins, your Pet is maintained on either anesthetic gas mixed with oxygen or other anesthetic modalities if necessary.

*Will my Pet be in pain?* Because most anesthetic gases do not provide pain control, your Pet will receive pain medication before and after the procedure. Your doctor may also prescribe oral pain medication for you to give at home for the next few days to help keep your pet comfortable. Depending on what type of surgery your Pet has, he/she may be sore the first night home and possibly over the next few days. While some degree of discomfort is expected, if you are concerned about your Pet’s behavior, please contact the doctor as soon as possible Pain treatment speeds recovery and keeps your pet as comfortable as possible during this stressful time. *All-day stay* – During this time, the hospital team monitors your pet’s recovery, performs postoperative exams and removes the catheter.

*What can I expect when I bring my Pet home*? Your Pet will need to have someone home with him/her tonight. Your Pet will have some redness of the skin where surgery was performed. Visible external sutures may have been used. It is normal for your Pet to be sleepy; somewhat less coordinated, and may drool for 12-24 hours after surgery. Your Pet should be responsive and able to walk, but will most likely want to sleep when they get home.

*Diet instructions*: Wait at least 2 hours after getting home before feeding. Feed your Pet only 1/4 to 1/6 the normal amount of his/her food and water or offer ice cubes. This will help prevent your Pet from vomiting. Just like people, Pets may feel nauseous after surgery or anesthesia and vomit if given large amounts of water or food. Tomorrow you may offer food and water at ¼ the amount every 4 hours unless otherwise instructed.

***Watch your Pet for the following signs:***

* Completely unresponsive/inability to stand
* Refusal to eat or drink for more than 12hours
* Swelling or bleeding from the incision site
* Pale/white mucous membranes (view the gum tissue inside the mouth)
* Severe vomiting or diarrhea

If you notice any of these symptoms, or have any questions or concerns about the health of your Pet, please contact us immediately.

**Personal Pet Items and Food: For Overnight Stays**

* If your Pet has a favorite toy or blanket, please feel free to bring it along. We will make sure that your Pet has this item while recovering to help comfort him or her while away from home.
* Encouraging a patient to eat is important following a medical procedure or while recovering from illness. Pets enjoy comfort food, and we welcome food brought from home. Please discuss with your veterinarian whether your pet’s medical condition allows for him or her to maintain a regular diet. If so, and it is a food that we do not stock in our hospital, you are welcome to bring it from home and we will prepare and serve it at feeding time.
* If a special diet is recommended, we carry a variety of prescription and therapeutic diets.

**Patient Updates & Comfort Checks**

Your pet’s veterinarian contacts you at least once a day with a medical report. The updates generally occur after medical rounds, when our veterinarians review each patient’s progress.

If a significant change occurs in your pet’s condition, you are contacted by a veterinarian, regardless of the time, unless you indicate otherwise. In addition, if you would like a Comfort Check status update feel free to call between the hours of 9a.m and 9 p.m.

**Visiting & Discharge Hours**

Visiting hours for your pet are available by appointment. Visiting a pet on the day of an anesthetic procedure is usually not recommended. This is to allow your pet to remain calm and start the healing process. Generally, the effects of anesthesia and pain management medication can make your pet groggy for one or two days after a procedure. We may ask that you wait until your pet is fully alert, and able to give a reassuring tail wag or peaceful purr as a sign that he or she is ready for a visit.

Patient discharge times are scheduled by our staff for your convenience.