



Anaesthetic Information

We pride ourselves in offering the best possible care for your pet. Our team takes great effort to do the best for your pet while s/he is in our care. Our hospital follows the guidelines required by the Accredited Veterinary Hospital Scheme of the Australian Small Animal Veterinarians (ASAV), which outlines standards of excellence in practice.

While we would like to always work at the highest available levels, we understand that the cost of doing so may not be affordable for everyone. Many factors affect anaesthetic risk and as such we will provide you with our best recommendation – we aim to offer the most appropriate anaesthetic protocols based on your pet's life stage & medical history. It is up to you to decide how that fits within your budget, and let our staff know at the time of admission regarding the options discussed within this handout.

Preparing your pet for admission and general anaesthesia

- Please fast your pet after 8pm the evening before surgery. Water should still be available up until your pet is admitted.
- Please bring your pet in at the pre-arranged appointment time between 7:40-9:30am. Please allow 10-15 minutes for this appointment.
- If possible, please bring in a fresh mid-stream urine sample.

Anaesthetic safety

Modern general anaesthetics are very safe and the chance of encountering problems are low. All patients have an IV catheter placed and are given IV fluids (drip) to help regulate blood pressure, which tends to drop under anaesthesia. Fluids also help to keep our senior patients hydrated during their stay.

A veterinary nurse will attend to your pet at all times during the anaesthetic. She/he will monitor your pet with many of the same instruments used in human hospital theatres, such as pulse oximetry, carbon dioxide metres, respiratory count monitors, blood pressure monitors, and ECG.

Patients are also monitored through their recovery period.

Sterility and surgical techniques follow this ASAV standard, as well.

Pain relief and reducing anxiety are keys within anaesthetic plans.

In the event of an anaesthetic emergency (which is rare) the nurses will ask of you in your admission how you would like us to proceed.

The options would be to start CPR, or do not resuscitate.

Although we do not expect any anaesthetic emergencies to occur, and do everything to avoid

them, we need to know how to proceed quickly to help your pet.

Laboratory testing

The ASAV standards of excellence include doing a complete blood count (CBC) to check the red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelet count for every patient having an anaesthetic. This helps us identify patients that may be anaemic, have an infection, or could have trouble with their blood clotting. This is a mandatory test for all pets having an anaesthetic.

Bringing in a urine sample the morning of surgery also gives us an indication of how your pet's kidneys are concentrating urine. There is no charge for this basic test.

We recommend all patients have a chemistry panel done to check for any changes to basic liver and kidney values. Young animals may have congenital issues, particularly with their kidneys, which can be identified with such tests prior to desexing. A large percentage of otherwise-normal-seeming middle-aged pets actually have early changes on these tests, as well.

Identifying any issues early-on allows our team to evaluate the risk versus benefit of anaesthesia; your vet will contact you if they are concerned about any changes in the results. If an anaesthetic is still warranted, this information will help the vet decide how to best approach anaesthetic medications, additional monitoring parameters, and follow up long-term to improve the well-being and life span of your pet.

If tests results are normal, we then have a baseline to refer back to later on as your pet ages.

Our minimum suggestion is a Chem10 panel. Your veterinarian will have likely included this in the estimate given to you for any procedure other than desexing. *NOTE: The cost of a Chem10 is additional to the basic price of desexing procedures.*

A Chem 17 is more exhaustive, giving more detailed information on liver and kidney values, pancreatic health, and some electrolytes. This

also includes a full urinalysis- checking for protein, blood, glucose, and other changes to the urine.

You will be asked at the time of admission to indicate your decision regarding laboratory work.

- ☒ Complete blood count is mandatory
- ☒ Urine concentration test (SpGr) is free of charge, if you provide a sample
- ☒ Chem 10- recommended. Can be declined due to financial constraints or with veterinary approval (Chem10 within days/weeks previous may be sufficient)
- ☐ Chem 17, full urinalysis- May be recommended for geriatric patients or those with chronic disease management plans. You may also select this option for your peace of mind.

Pain Relief

Because pets can't ask for pain relief, and in fact tend to hide the signs of pain, all animals undergoing surgery at our practice receive pain relief. Good pain relief has been proven to improve recovery time and reduce pain-related anxiety.

In certain circumstances some animals may require additional pain relief. Where the veterinarian feels it is necessary associated with a particularly painful procedure they will prescribe additional pain relief. Some more sensitive animals require more pain relief even after routine surgery.

If during the post-operative period you are worried that your pet is uncomfortable please contact the surgery so that we can discuss additional pain relief options.

Additional Procedures

When an animal is having a general anaesthetic it can be the ideal time to consider having other things done. It can reduce the stress on the animal and can also save considerable amounts of money to do things all at once. Some of the common procedures we perform while pets are under anaesthetic include:

Microchip From 1 July 2018 laws in South Australia required all dogs and cats to be microchipped by 12 weeks of age or upon sale, whichever is the sooner.

Microchips are unlosable identification. A small rice grain sized chip (International Standard) that carries a unique number is placed under the skin of your pet. The number can be read via a scanner at Vet clinics, Councils and animal shelters. The organisations managing microchip databases record the microchip number and link it to your contact details. It enables us to contact you quickly should your pet be found. We provide chip implantation, national lifetime database record keeping with Australasian Animal Registry, enter the microchip information onto Dogs and Cats online and an 'M' tattoo in right ear. (By law, the "M" tattoo is required to be done under anaesthetic or sedation.).

Elizabethan Collars prevent excessive licking, biting or chewing of wounds/sutures. Relatively inexpensive (especially when compared to the cost of restitching!) and you will be able to keep for later use – if required!

Umbilical Hernia Repair An umbilical hernia is a small hole present in the umbilical area (belly button) that can allow fat or some of the abdominal organs to fall through creating a lump under the skin. A small hernia is nothing to be overly concerned about, but occasionally can become serious if internal organs become trapped and therefore damaged. It is best to have the hernia repaired before any complications arise. The total cost of a hernia repair done on it's own can be several hundred dollars – it is far more cost effective to have it repaired when your pet is already under an anaesthetic.

Retained Temporary Teeth / Tooth Removal

Sometimes the puppy canine teeth ('eye teeth') do not fall out when the adult tooth grows. If left in they can trap debris, develop heavy tartar and eventually lead to rotting of the affected teeth. Removal of retained teeth when your pet is already under anaesthetic could save you hundreds of dollars later on.

Vaccinations and Heartworm Prevention

Vaccinations and heartworm are important for Pets preventative health care. We do not recommend giving them at the time of an Anaesthetic. Speak with our team about giving these vaccines at your post-operative check.

FIV (Feline Aids) Vaccination and Testing Feline Aids is caused by infection with Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) which interferes with the cats immune system. It is incurable and eventually fatal. FIV is spread by contact (most often being bitten by) with an infected cat. A recent study at an Adelaide Laboratory showed 18% of cats tested were positive to FIV. Any cat that has outside access and therefore is at risk of fighting with another cat, or is potentially going into a boarding cattery should also be vaccinated against FIV. So that your cat/kitten's immune system is taught to recognise this disease, we will need to give 3 vaccinations over 6 weeks, and then annual boosters. If your cat is more than 6 months old we recommend having a blood test for FIV prior to vaccinating.

Preparing for Surgery

To maximise the safety and efficiency of your pets procedure please ensure:

- Your pet is fasted (no food) from 8pm the night before the surgery.
- Your pet has access to water until admission time.
- If possible, please bring in a fresh mid-stream urine sample.
- Please allow 10—20 minutes to admit your pet on the morning of surgery.
- Admission times are between 8.10am - 9.10am and are by appointment