



LEESBURG
VETERINARY HOSPITAL

ANESTHETIC SAFETY

Providing the best surgical and anesthetic care for your pet is our top priority.

The doctors and staff at Leesburg Veterinary Hospital are committed to your pet's well-being while in our care. That's why we've invested in state-of-the-art equipment and staff training for your pet's safety and comfort during surgery and anesthesia. We take extra time to match your pet's health and medical problems with correct anesthetic protocols and monitoring. In many cases, a patient's existing medical problem outweighs any minimal risks involved with quality anesthesia.

A good example is pet dentistry:

If infected teeth are left to abscess in a pet's mouth, pain, bone infection, and possible life-threatening internal organ infections pose much greater risks to your pet's health than proper anesthesia administration.

Let us share with you our plan for providing your pet with the safest and most advanced care during surgery and anesthesia.



"It is our goal to make any anesthetic procedure as safe and stress-free as possible for both you and your pet."

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO SURGERY AND ANESTHESIA

Pre-Anesthetic Evaluation

Pre-Surgery Exam

A pre-surgery exam is always performed prior to putting your pet under anesthesia. It is ideal to make an appointment for your pet's evaluation a few days prior to surgery. During this visit, we will evaluate you pet, discuss the procedure, risks, and aftercare. We will obtain necessary samples for testing, consent forms, and provide a financial treatment plan for the procedure.

Here are the basic goals of a pre-surgery exam:

Patient History

Past medical history can provide valuable information about your pet's health status and risks to consider with anesthesia.

Physical Exam

A thorough exam is very important to discover any potential problems that could complicate the procedure.

Pre-Anesthetic blood testing

It is important to be sure your pet can process and eliminate the anesthetic they are given. These tests confirm that their liver and kidneys are functioning properly. Even puppies and kittens can be born with liver and kidney disease, therefore we recommend pre-anesthetic blood work for all pets prior to surgery. Your veterinarian will discuss the appropriate blood testing for your pet's health and specific procedure.

Surgery Day!

Fasting

To reduce the risk of vomiting under anesthesia and recovery, we recommend your pet fast prior to their procedure.

Please do not feed your pet after 10PM the evening before surgery; we suggest pulling their water bowl in the AM to limit intake.

Admission

Plan to arrive at the hospital between 7:30AM—8:00AM to fill out admission and surgical consent forms (you may also download and fill out this paperwork prior to arriving, from our website, www.leesburgvet.com). The surgery technician or surgeon can answer any last minute questions you may have.

IV Catheter and Fluids

IV catheters give us quick access to administer medications to help combat dehydration, support blood pressure, and ensure kidney health; warmed fluids help maintain the proper body temperature and speed recovery.

Proper Anesthetic Selection

The information collected during your pet's pre-surgical exam helps us determine the best anesthetic protocol to use. This can range from a local anesthetic coupled with a light sedative, to general anesthesia. We pre-medicate our patients with a light sedative along with pain medication to make all stages of their anesthesia smoother.

Patient Monitoring & Post-Op Recovery

Diligent patient monitoring is critical to a successful surgery. Our surgery technicians monitor your pet from induction of anesthesia through post-op, when your pet is awake and safely sitting upright. The following vital signs are monitored and recorded at regular intervals during surgery:

- **Blood Pressure, Body Temperature, Respiratory Rates**
- **ECG** (electrocardiogram) to measure the heart's rate and rhythm. ECG's can detect any abnormal electrical impulses in the heart; intervention is immediately initiated and anesthesia is suspended if problems are detected.
- **End Tidal CO₂** to measure proper ventilation during anesthesia; **Pulse Oximeter** to measure oxygen saturation during anesthesia

Recovery Phase

Patient monitoring continues once your pet is awake—vital parameters are recorded, pain scores are determined, and nursing care is performed.

Client Communications and Discharge

The surgeon and technician will be in contact with you several times, including before and after anesthesia, to inform you of your pet's progress and recovery, and to set up a discharge time. At discharge, a technician will meet with you to review take-home instructions; in most cases, medications are sent home with the patient to manage pain and keep your pet comfortable.