

Introduction

Throughout our pet's lives, there are often occasions when they will require surgery. From routine preventative surgeries such as desexings, or reconstructive surgery following trauma, these procedures require a general anaesthetic.



Standards of quality

The Nicklin Way Veterinary Surgery has a reputation for excellence in surgery and medicine. Our operating theatres are maintained with the highest standards of sterility and are equipped with quality monitoring equipment and machines used for human surgical procedures.

Pre-anaesthetic Testing

Pre-operative testing (sometimes called pre-anaesthetic blood testing) is always recommended, regardless of an animal's age. As in human medicine, the drugs available for anaesthetising our companion pets are often the same and extremely safe. As a result, the anaesthetic risk is greatly minimized when a 'healthy' pet is placed under anaesthetic. However, if your pet is not 'healthy', complications can occur both during and after the anaesthetic procedure. For example, a pet can lose up to 75% of kidney function prior to showing any signs of illness, and general anaesthetics can severely damage the remaining kidney cells.

While pre-anaesthetic blood testing does not guarantee the absence of complications, it does minimize the possibility of complications during and after anaesthesia. Any abnormalities detected may need to be corrected prior to surgery, or may indicate a change in the choice of anaesthetic drug or which premedication is administered.

Fluid Therapy

Your pet can also benefit from intravenous fluids whilst under anaesthetic. Intravenous fluids assist in maintaining a steady blood pressure while under anaesthetic, therefore helping the kidneys to better process the drugs being administered and promoting a quicker recovery. They also help in keeping your pet well hydrated and protect the organs from low blood pressure.

Pre-Surgical Instructions

- No food is to be given after 8pm the evening before surgery and no breakfast at all on the day of surgery.
- Water should be removed one hour before admission on the day of surgery.
- **No treats and no cheating!** An empty stomach is critical for a safe anaesthesia. **Do not however** restrict food or fluids for small mammals such as guinea pigs.
- If your pet is taking medication, give the normal dosage at the usual time unless otherwise advised by your veterinarian. If your pet is a diabetic, please ask your veterinarian for special instructions.
- You may wish to bath your pet prior to surgery as those that require sutures will not be able to be bathed for 10 days.
- Allow your pet to exercise and time to empty their bowels and bladder before being admitted, unless otherwise instructed.
- Surgical patients are admitted to the practice between 8:30am and 9:30am on the day of surgery. Most patients will be discharged on the same day after 4pm unless otherwise advised.

Other Considerations

When your pet is undergoing anaesthesia for one procedure it is worth considering whether he or she requires additional procedures, such as a dental scale or polish, or lump removal.

Please do not hesitate to discuss any queries you may have with your veterinary surgeon or admitting nurse.