

Your pet is coming to have surgery at our veterinary clinic soon.

We know a lot of our clients drop their pets off while taking their children to school or on the way to work. We want to offer the best for your pet and we don't want to delay your day. By giving you this information in advance we aim to help you make informed and stress free decisions.

Enclosed is information about what to expect on your pet's day of surgery and information regarding optional extra services we can provide while your pet is with us. **Please withhold food from 10pm the night before surgery. Allow your pet free access to water until the time of admission.**

We hope you find this information helpful and if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to call us or speak to our nurses when you drop your pet off.

Kind regards,

The team at Greenlane Veterinary Centre.

On the day of surgery

We admit animals for surgery between **8am-8.30am**. This is to allow adequate time to discuss the consent form and answer any questions you may have. We ask all pets to be dropped off by 8.30am so our veterinarians can perform a pre-anaesthetic check of your pet. At this time we will carry out blood tests, perform additional pre-anaesthetic tests when necessary and give sedation ready to start surgery on time. **All patients being anaesthetised receive intravenous fluids**. We routinely start surgery 9.30am-10am. If you need to drop your pet off later than 8.30am, please call so we can make arrangements for this.

If you would like to speak to a Vet or ask some questions before your pet has surgery, please let us know when you book your appointment and we can schedule a consult time for this.

Please ensure we have your contact details for the day so we can reach you at all times. Occasionally we will need to contact you during a general anaesthetic – for example; when an unexpected tooth extraction is required.

Every animal is given a pre-anaesthetic examination. They are then given a sedative which will relax them prior to surgery and provide pain relief. Routine surgeries are completed in the following order:

- 1) Sterile operations (performed in the Operating theatre).
- 2) Non-sterile operations such as abscess or bite wounds.
- 3) Dental procedures (performed in the dedicated Dental surgery room)

This allows us to provide a clean environment, thereby minimising the risk of infection. All animals are assigned and monitored by a fully trained veterinary nurse throughout their anaesthetic. Baseline monitoring during an anaesthetic includes respiratory rate, anaesthetic depth, heart rate, temperature, intravenous fluid rate and pulse oximetry. Older pets or higher risk general anaesthetics will also receive blood pressure monitoring and ECG monitoring. A nurse monitors your pet's recovery and pain relief is given when required under Veterinary instruction. When your pet has recovered, it is able to go home.

Home Care:

After surgery your pet may still be quite sleepy and want to rest. This is normal. We recommend allowing them free access to water, but withhold food until about 7pm at night. The first meal should only be half the normal size.

We offer a complimentary recheck of your pet's suture line 2 days after surgery to remove any dressings and monitor progress. If you notice your pet licking or chewing at the sutures please contact us to provide an Elizabethan collar to prevent this. Sutures are to be removed 10-14 days post op free of charge by one of our veterinary staff. It is important to keep all sutures clean and dry.

It is important to restrict exercise after any operation where sutures are in place.

There are optional extras available at an additional charge for patients undergoing surgical procedures that we would like you to be informed of prior to admission of your pet.

Pre-anaesthetic blood test:

A pre-anaesthetic blood test is usually performed on the day of surgery. The mini-panel investigates the kidneys, liver, white and red blood cells. This gives us information about kidney function, liver damage, infection and anaemia respectively. It also gives us a glucose and total protein level. Testing helps us detect early abnormalities and in conjunction with a physical exam, it helps provide a more complete picture of your animal's health prior to performing a general anaesthetic.

Microchip

We highly recommend microchip placement for all cats and dogs. A microchip is the fastest way for any lost pet to be returned home and does not rely on your pet wearing a collar. A microchip is easily inserted by injection under the skin. The microchip number is kept on our computer system and a national database. Without microchips, sadly lost pets are normally sent to the SPCA for 7 days.

Nail trim

Under general anaesthetic is the best time to trim your pet's toe nails. Please request this at reception during admission.

Flea and worm control

All adults should be wormed every three months and flea control applied monthly. Animals under 6 months are wormed more frequently. Please speak to our staff if your pet is under 6 months.