



# VETERINARY SURGERY GUIDE



Palisades Veterinary Clinic provides a variety of routine and elective surgical services. Below are answers to the frequently asked questions and information on the services provided when your pet undergoes surgery at PVC.

## **PRE-ANESTHETIC BLOOD WORK**

Pre-anesthetic blood work is performed to ensure that your pet's organs are functioning properly. Veterinarians look for indicators of health concerns such as infection, anemia, kidney or liver insufficiency, and blood sugar abnormalities which may affect the surgery and anesthesia process and hinder recovery or be fatal. If an abnormality is detected in the blood work, your veterinarian will change their surgery or anesthesia protocol.

## **PRE-OPERATIVE PAIN MEDICATION**

Studies have proven that the pain experienced after surgery can be significantly reduced by administering analgesics before the procedure, rather than after the procedure. The analgesics are usually administered as an injection.

## **IV CATHETER AND FLUIDS**

Patients will have an IV catheter placed before anesthesia. The IV catheter provides immediate access to a patient's vein which allows for rapid administration of drugs in case of an emergency. IV catheters are also used to administer fluids that help maintain blood pressure within a safe range during the procedure.

## **INTUBATION**

Endotracheal tubes are placed into the trachea to allow airway access and control. Oxygen and gas anesthesia is administered through the endotracheal tube into the lungs. Breeds with short faces such as Bulldogs, Pugs, Pekingese, Himalayans, and Persians have long soft pallets which can interfere with airflow. However, airway obstruction can occur inadvertently with any breed, so having airway access during anesthesia is critical.



## **ANESTHETIC MONITORING BY A DEDICATED ANESTHETIST**

A dedicated anesthetist is critical to any procedure that involves anesthesia. Our anesthetist is with the patient during the entire procedure and during recovery. They will continuously monitor pulse rate, respiration, blood oxygen level, temperature and blood pressure using monitoring equipment, and take necessary steps before problems occur.

## **POST -OPERATIVE PAIN MEDICATION**

Patients will be sent home with pain medication to be administered at home for a few days after their surgical procedure.

## **DETAILED POST-OPERATIVE CARE INSTRUCTIONS**

Our doctors will provide detailed written instructions on how to care for your pet at home after the surgery. The instructions will include information about the medications you will take home and when to call us if you notice issues or concerns.

# **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How should I prepare for my pet's upcoming surgery?**

Do not feed your pet any food after 10 PM the night before their scheduled surgery. You can leave water out for them. It is important that your pet is fasted before anesthesia.

### **How long does my pet need to stay at the clinic?**

All surgeries at PVC are performed as outpatient surgery. Most patients recover better at home where they are comfortable. If your pet requires additional monitoring after his or her surgery, we will refer you to a local emergency veterinary hospital for overnight care.

### **Should I restrict my pet's activity after surgery?**

Depending on the type of surgery, your pet may have a surgery site with sutures. The sutures will either dissolve or be removed within 10-14 days. During that time your pet should go on shorter walks and refrain from running, jumping, and playing.