SURGERY AND ANESTHESIA AT Lodi Veterinary Care

No food after 10 pm the night prior to surgery.
Water is okay.

Pre-surgical Appointment: _______________________ Time: ________________
Patient: __________________ Procedure: _____________________________

Our goal at Lodi Veterinary Care is to provide you with the very best medical and surgical care available along with the necessary information to help you with decisions concerning your pet’s health. If you are considering an elective surgery for your pet such as a spay, neuter, declaw, or if your pet requires surgery for a medical reason, it is important that you understand what is involved in surgery and anesthesia.

1) PRE-SURGICAL ADMISSION APPOINTMENT
   All animals admitted for surgery have a pre-surgical appointment the morning of surgery. At this scheduled time the surgery technician will advise you on what lab work will be needed as a pre-surgical screen, discuss the procedure, and provide a medical care plan with an associated cost.

2) PRE-SURGICAL SCREEN
   A pre-surgical screen is blood work analyzed to help detect any underlying problems with your pet's health, or any conditions that may alter your pet's surgery. This testing is necessary for all animals at various levels depending on your pet's age and physical condition.

3) VACCINATIONS
   For the protection of your pet, other patients, and our team members, current vaccinations are required for all hospitalized animals. Dogs and cats must have a current Rabies and Distemper vaccination. If your pet is not current, we require vaccinations to be up to date at least one week prior to the scheduled surgery. If a doctor deems this is not medically possible, we encourage vaccination as soon as medically possible.

4) NEW CLIENTS/PETS TO LVC: PRE-SURGICAL PHYSICAL EXAM
   If you have a pet that needs surgery and we have not seen them here in the past, we will need to schedule a pre-surgical physical exam to establish a doctor/patient relationship. At that appointment the doctor will assess your pet’s health, give any vaccinations that are needed prior to surgery, conduct the pre-surgical blood screen, and provide a medical care plan for the upcoming surgery.
5.) **SURGERY**
At Lodi Veterinary Care, we make every effort to provide a sterile (germ free) environment for our surgeries. All of our instruments are steam sterilized in packs and one pack is used per surgery. Our surgeons wear scrub suits, gowns, gloves, masks and hats similar to what you see in a human hospital. The surgical site is draped in single use, sterile drapes. This environment reduces post operation complications such as infection and prevents spread of disease from one pet to the next.

6.) **CLIPPING**
You may notice several areas of shaved hair on your pet: these areas have been shaved to allow us to monitor your pet’s vital signs under anesthesia as well as to keep the surgical site as sterile as possible.
- **Front Leg** - a small area is shaved to allow for an intravenous catheter to be placed. This allows us to administer IV medications as well as intravenous fluids to maintain your pet’s heart rate and blood pressure.
- **Back Leg - Above The Foot** - a small area is shaved to allow for a Doppler monitor to be applied. This allows us to monitor your pet’s heart rate and blood pressure.
- **Surgical Site** - a large area surrounding your pet’s surgical site is shaved to allow sterilization to prevent post operative infection.
- **Over Lower Spine** - a small area may be shaved to allow for an epidural to be placed. This type of pain relief is usually used for patients having surgery in the hind limbs or pelvic area.
- **Side of Chest or Back** - this site may be shaved to allow for a pain patch to be placed. This patch provides short term pain relief.

7.) **ANESTHETIC**
The anesthesia used for your pet is determined by your pet's species, breed, size, age, any preexisting medical conditions, and the surgical procedure to be done. Two basic types of anesthetic are available:

- **Gas** - Isoflurane gas, which is the safest anesthetic gas available, is used at our hospital. Isoflurane is most commonly used for procedures at LVC.
- **Injectable** - Injectable anesthetics require less restraint and provide good anesthesia with a slightly longer recovery. Anesthetics of this type are desirable in cats which may not like to be restrained or may become fractious and injure themselves if recovery occurs too quickly.

8.) **MONITORING**
There is always some risk when a patient is undergoing surgery and general anesthesia. We attempt to minimize that risk by using the safest anesthetic available, sterile technique, careful patient monitoring and advanced monitoring equipment. A certified technician and veterinary technician assistant monitor all patients during anesthesia and recovery.

9.) **AFTER YOUR PET GOES HOME**
Depending on the procedure that your pet is having done, there are things that you should be aware of when you bring your pet home. With any surgical procedure, reduced activity is a must to ensure the proper healing of incision sites. Incision sites should also be monitored daily for redness, discharge and any excessive licking. Occasionally, pets going home the same day of a procedure may be a bit quiet or groggy from their anesthesia. If this is the case for your pet, be sure to avoid stairs and slippery floors for the rest of the evening.

We encourage pet owners to tour our facility. Unlike human hospitals, veterinary hospitals and procedures are not tightly monitored and regulated. Basing your choice on cost alone may not be what is best for your pet. We are proud of the quality of our services and feel it is important that you feel as comfortable as possible leaving your pet in our care. Please contact us if you have any further questions or concerns.