



HILL CREEK VETERINARY HOSPITAL
 23 Rectory St. Pittsboro, NC
 542-1141

Pre-operative Instructions for Animals Scheduled for Surgery

<animal> <last-name> Procedure _____
 Date of procedure _____

Thank you for scheduling your pet to have surgery with us. Your pet's safety and comfort are our top priorities during any surgical procedure. In order to help us in this endeavor, please **read and follow the checked items below**. They have been customized for your pet's anesthetic procedure.

All pets presented for an anesthetic procedure will have a pre-surgical exam prior to anesthesia or sedation.

In ADVANCE OF THE SURGERY

- Please schedule your pet 2-14 days in advance of the procedure for pre-surgical bloodwork.
- Please obtain pre-surgical antibiotics for your pet at least _____ days prior to the procedure.
- Please schedule your pet for an EKG within 2 weeks of the procedure
- Please schedule an appointment with a doctor for a physical and assessment for the procedure to be performed.

The NIGHT BEFORE SURGERY

- Withhold food after 10 pm the night before surgery. Water is O.K.
- Contain your pet so that they will be easily caught and transported to the hospital the following morning.

The MORNING OF SURGERY

- DO NOT FEED YOUR PET (including TREATS!).** Water is OK.
- Give any prescribed antibiotics if you can give it without food. If you cannot, please let us know at check-in.
- For your pet's protection bring him/her to the clinic in a carrier or on a leash. Please arrive at the hospital between 7:30 and 8:15. We check in a high volume of animals during this time so please allow 15-30 minutes for the check-in procedure.
- Leave us a phone number **where you can be reached** during the day. We will call you when the procedure is over and your pet is awake.
- Other _____

Your pet is important to us, and we have set aside a portion of our day to perform his/her surgical procedure. We frequently have a wait period of 2 or more weeks for a surgery slot. Although we understand that occasionally there are circumstances beyond your control which make it impossible to bring your pet on their scheduled day, we have found it necessary to institute a fee for last minute cancellations. Please give us at least 24 hours notice if you are unable to bring your animal for their appointment. Call 542-1141 to reschedule.

***** **The fee for canceling with less than 24 hours notice is \$25** *****

The morning of the surgery your pet will be checked in to the hospital by a Registered Technician. You will be asked about bloodwork, as well as other pre-surgical care questions. The importance of pre-operative bloodwork may have already been discussed with you by the veterinarian who recommended the surgery. To help you make a well-informed decision, please read the following summary of the value of pre-operative bloodwork and why the doctors at Hill Creek Veterinary Hospital recommend it for their surgical patients.

Pre-operative bloodwork helps the doctor to plan your pet's anesthetic protocol. By looking at your pet's liver and kidney function, we can determine how well your pet will be able to tolerate some of the drugs that we use. It also helps us to know if we should run extra fluids post-operatively. Bloodwork also can uncover illnesses like diabetes and anemia that could affect your pet's ability to tolerate anesthetic procedures. As pets age and are more likely to develop other problems, bloodwork becomes more important pre-operatively.

When possible, we recommend you bring your pet in about a week before the scheduled procedure for bloodwork. This allows us to do a more thorough screen, and gives us time to adjust things if needed before the procedure. This bloodwork ranges in price from \$38-135, depending on what tests the doctor feels are most important for your pet.

Alternatively, there is a small panel of bloodwork that we can do the day of the procedure. This checks for anemia, checks blood sugar levels, and checks kidney function. This test costs \$31.50.

If you choose to decline bloodwork, the doctor will assess your pet as best she can based on physical exam findings that morning.