

Creekside Animal Clinic Ltd.

5001- 24th Street, Vernon, BC

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YOUR PET'S WELL BEING DURING ANESTHESIA AND SURGERY

Your pet's well-being and comfort during its anesthetic and surgery, or dental procedure, is a primary concern to us. It is very important that you read the following information prior to your pet's admission for surgery or dentistry.

When your pet is admitted for surgery, you will be asked to provide consent for our veterinarians to perform the procedure that has been scheduled. This will include sedation of your pet to help it relax before it is given anesthetic, an anesthetic to eliminate pain, the surgical, dental or medical procedure that is planned, and medication that is given to control pain after surgical or dental procedures.

You will also be asked to provide consent for our veterinarians to perform pre-anesthetic blood tests.

Depending on the age of your pet (pets older than 7 years of age are considered 'seniors'), and how long the procedure may be, you may be asked to authorize your veterinarian to administer intravenous (IV) fluids while your pet is under anesthesia. IV fluids provide a means to help regulate blood pressure, administer medications, and can help speed-up your pet's recovery after an anesthetic. In case medications need to be administered in an emergency an established IV line saves valuable seconds.

If you do not consent to these procedures, you may decline them and but you must indicate your acceptance of the implied risk.

Why are these procedures recommended?

The risk associated with general anesthesia has been significantly reduced for healthy pets with the use of modern anesthetics and sophisticated monitoring systems. The potential for complications still exists and is greatest where an apparently healthy pet has a subtle condition that may not be easily detected. An important way to decrease the risk for your pet is to have a pre-anesthetic and pre-surgical evaluation performed before the procedure. This can assist our veterinarians in determining if your pet has any underlying problems that might lead to complications, and to make adjustments to safeguard your pet's health and comfort.

What is involved in preparation for anesthesia and surgery?

The extent of preparation will be dictated by the age and health concerns of your pet, and by the nature of the procedure being undertaken. In general terms, preparation can be divided into three stages: **physical examination, routine blood testing, and additional testing.**



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Dr. K. Johnson Dr. J. Veronneau

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1. The physical examination

A systematic visual inspection of the pet's head, neck, limbs, and body,

- ✓ Palpation (feeling with the hands) of the body's outer surface (skin, fur, muscles etc.), and assessment of internal abdominal organs through the body wall
- ✓ Auscultation (listening with a stethoscope) to the heart, lungs, and abdomen.

All pets have a physical examination prior to being given anesthesia

2. Routine Blood testing

Routine blood testing typically includes a complete blood count (CBC) and a serum biochemistry profile; these tests provide a wealth of important information about a pet's health status.

Complete Blood Count - this test evaluates the cellular components of blood. These include red blood cells, which carry oxygen to the tissues, white blood cells, which fight infection and respond to inflammation, and platelets, which help the blood to clot. The CBC provides details about the number, size, and shape of the various cells types, as well as any abnormalities that may be present. **If abnormalities are detected your veterinarian may postpone the procedure until the cause of the abnormality is corrected.**

Serum Biochemistry Profile - this is a series of tests performed on serum, which is a major component of blood. These tests provide information about how well the various organs of the body are working. Each test provides information about a specific organ or metabolic disease. For example, there are tests to identify the presence of diabetes, and liver or kidney disease.

Major abnormalities, especially involving the liver or kidney, or evidence of serious metabolic disease, would justify delaying anesthesia and surgery until the underlying problem was corrected.

3. Additional testing. In exceptional cases, x-rays, ultrasound, or other imaging techniques may be recommended prior to anesthesia and surgery, especially if abnormalities or irregularities are found on routine testing. If your pet requires these special tests your veterinarian will discuss this with you, prior to performing them.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE INFORMATION PROVIDED, PLEASE CONTACT CREEKSIDE ANIMAL CLINIC LTD. ONE OF OUR VETERINARIANS OR TECHNICIANS WOULD BE PLEASED TO DISCUSS YOUR CONCERNS

Pre-anesthetic info



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