



PRIORY VETERINARY SURGEONS PRE-OPERATIVE INFORMATION

Surgery can be a scary thought, but there is no need to worry as we will treat your pet as if they were one of our own.

The following information is designed to help answer some of the questions you may have regarding the general anaesthetic or procedure, as well as some advice on what to do pre-operatively. On the morning of the procedure you will be asked to read and sign a consent form and the nurse can answer any additional questions you may have.

A lot of procedures we perform in veterinary practice require a sedation or general anaesthetic whereas they may be performed conscious in humans, as it is rare for our patients to be cooperative enough to lie still. Although modern sedative and anaesthetic agents are very safe, all anaesthetics do carry a small risk to the life of the animal. This is usually minimal, but any concerns should be discussed with your veterinary surgeon. The last big survey (2008) assessed the normal healthy patient risk of mortality as 2 in 10,000 in dogs, and 3 in 10,000 in cats. As a comparison, for every 1000 car drivers there are on average 43 accidents.

Cats and dogs should be fully starved prior to any sedation or anaesthetic. Please ensure that your pet receives its last meal before 8pm the night before its procedure – after this time all food sources must be removed. You should allow access to water throughout the night prior to the anaesthetic. *It is vital that you inform the vet or nurse if you suspect that your pet may have had access to food.* Please ensure that cats are kept indoors the night prior to their anaesthetic to prevent access to any food elsewhere, and dogs should be taken for a short lead only walk in the morning so that they have opportunities to go to the toilet.

Rabbits, guinea pigs and small furrries should not be starved under any circumstances and it is vital that they have access to food right up to the point of anaesthetising them. Please bring in a small amount of their normal food as well as some of their favourite vegetables or treats as sometimes these will encourage them to eat immediately after the anaesthetic. If they live with a companion then it is often best to bring the pet's companion in as well to keep them company as this is far less stressful for them both.

On the morning of the procedure please bring in your pet to the Reigate branch between 8am and 9am, or between 8:30am and 9am at the other branches. If your pet takes any regular medication please check with the surgery whether this should be given on the morning of admission, as advice varies for different conditions. You will usually be admitted by one of our nurses who will explain the procedure and consent form to you, but on some occasions you may be recommend to have an appointment with the veterinary surgeon on admit, in which case you will be given a specific time to come in. You may request an estimate for the procedure either prior to or at the time of admission, but please be aware that this is an estimate only and that further costs may be incurred should complications arise, or should a procedure be more complex than first thought. We offer pre-operative bloods as an additional option to assess your pet's health before their procedure which can be run on the morning of the admission, but ideally at the Redhill, Tadworth or Banstead branches these should be taken and run a few days prior to surgery.

For female dogs having neutering operations, we request that you book an appointment with one of our nurses 1-2 weeks prior to the surgery date so they can ensure there is no reason that we cannot proceed with the procedure as planned.

If you have any questions about our surgical facilities then please do not hesitate to call a member of our experienced team for further details.