

# Lake Austin Boulevard Animal Hospital

## **What to Expect When Your Pet is Having Surgery**

All of us at Lake Austin Blvd Animal Hospital want you and your pet's surgical procedure to run smoothly. Please read the information below about what to expect before and after your pet's surgical procedure.

### Before Surgery:

- Please do not feed your pet after midnight, the night before surgery. This will allow their intestinal tract to process food so that they do not have a full stomach the day of surgery which can cause possible complications. You can continue to offer them water.
- If your pet is routinely on any medications please call or ask your vet whether or not they are recommended to be given the morning of the procedure. Most medications are fine to be given that morning.
- Please make sure to drop your pet off before 9am on the day of the procedure (unless otherwise specified). The doctor will perform a pre-surgical examination.
- If not already completed, pre-anesthetic blood work will be performed. This allows us to customize your pet's anesthetic needs.

### Surgery Procedures

- An intravenous (IV) catheter will be placed. This allows us to administer medications/fluids throughout the procedure. IV fluids help provide general support that the patient will need under anesthesia.
- We will utilize a customized anesthesia plan for your pet. While they are anesthetized, their vital signs will be continuously monitored. This includes their heart rhythm/rate (ECG), oxygenation levels (ETCO<sub>2</sub>, SpO<sub>2</sub>), blood pressure and temperature. We utilize several warming methods to ensure that your pet is warm and comfortable during the procedure. A dedicated veterinary technician will be present at all times for monitoring and to ensure that your pet receives individual attention.
- The surgical site and length of the incision(s) will vary depending on the planned procedure.

- After the surgical procedure is complete, vital signs will continue to be monitored. We will keep them warm and comfortable as the effects of anesthesia wear off. We will also administer post operative IV fluids. This time period can vary depending on length or procedure and individual reaction. Most patients will need to be monitored with us for at least 3-4 hours before pick up.
- The doctor will call you when the procedure is completed and your pet is recovered from anesthesia.

#### Post surgery

- For most surgeries you will be able to take your pet home the evening of the procedure, for more intensive surgeries it may be recommended that you take your pet to the emergency hospital for after hours care. This allows for continued monitoring and care overnight.
- Patients that are discharged home will go home with written instructions and most likely medications. These instructions will detail feeding and activity restriction, incision site care, and any recommended recheck exams
- The surgery site may be closed with either sutures/staples or a surgical glue. Sutures or staples will need to be removed 10-14 days after the procedure. This does not require an appointment unless otherwise noted.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us or write them out for the doctor to address. There will also be an opportunity to address concerns on the surgery authorization form!