

CLIENT INFORMATION FOR ANESTHETIZED PATIENTS

At Saddleback Animal Hospital we strive to provide your pet with the highest quality care possible. Your pet has been scheduled for surgery and we would like to take the time to educate you about our procedures. Our doctors and trained staff will provide your pet with the care and knowledge that you have come to us for. Your pet will be examined before anesthesia to ensure that all vital signs appear normal. The vital signs include weight, temperature, heart rate, respiratory rate and overall general health. In addition, the doctor will listen to your pet's heart and lungs to see if any abnormalities can be detected. While these precautions can pick up many animals at risk for anesthesia, some complications cannot be detected this way. The doctors at Saddleback Animal Hospital recommend the following additional precautionary measures for the safety of your pet.

Pre-anesthetic blood work: These tests look at important organ functions such as the liver and kidneys. As many as 10% of patients that appear healthy upon physical exam can have abnormalities that would alter or delay anesthesia. Blood panels can detect complications before they arise.

Intravenous catheter and fluids during anesthesia: Recent studies have provided us with information about your pet's health while under anesthesia. The studies tell us that it is very important to maintain the patient's blood pressure to ensure proper blood flow to vital organs. Intravenous fluids given while the patient is under anesthesia is the best way to keep the blood pressure stable. This intravenous port also gives the doctors and technicians a direct route to administer life saving medications should a complication arise.

Pre-anesthetic radiography: There are many diseases that can be detected by radiography. An x-ray of your pet's chest could detect early signs of heart or lung disease. Because the heart and lungs could be taxed during anesthesia, an x-ray before any procedure is a recommended precautionary measure, especially in pets over 7 years of age.

Additional procedures while under anesthesia: While we try to make anesthetics as safe for your pet as we can, we also recommend taking care of as many procedures as we can while we have your pet anesthetized. This can eliminate additional anesthesia in the future. Such procedures can include x-rays of hips and elbows in large breed dogs, nail trims, teeth cleaning, fluoride treatments, grooming, ear cleaning, microchips, neutering, spaying, declawing, heartworm testing, flea control, deworming, feline leukemia and FIV testing.

If you have any questions about the above procedures please let a staff member know before your pet is admitted to the hospital for a procedure. Estimates are provided upon request.
