



Foothills Animal Hospital

When your pet is having an anaesthetic

What should I do before the surgery?

- Vaccines:** We require all hospital patients to be vaccinated, both for their own safety and the health of our other patients.
- Food:** The night before your pet visits the hospital for surgery, please do not feed after 8pm. Please make sure you remove anything that could be a potential food source (i.e. other pets food, or in the case of naughty puppies, bins!). Leave water out for your pet as normal. We recommend keeping cats indoors the night before surgery.
- Bathing:** You will be unable to bath your pet for 12-14 days after their surgery. If your pet is likely to need a bath within this timeframe, we highly recommend doing so prior to the day of surgery. This also makes preparing the surgical site a lot easier!

What will happen on the day of surgery?

- Arrival:** All animals undergoing routine surgery attend a pre-operative admit, usually between 8.20am and 9am. If you require an earlier or later admit time, just let us know and we will be happy to try to help.
- When you arrive your pet will be weighed and checked over by one of our experienced veterinarians. Any recommendations will be made by the veterinarian at this time, and you are welcome to ask any questions you may have.
- We will ask you to complete an admission form, which will provide us with vital information about your pet. If your pet has been ill recently, we request that you share this information with us.
- Finally, you are welcome to bring any toys or comforting bedding for your pet to recover with. We encourage you to accompany our nurse to settle him/her into their kennel.
- In hospital:** After your pet has been admitted to our ward, we will administer a pre-medication injection. This will help your pet to relax prior to surgery. We may also draw blood for pre-anaesthetic testing, and place a catheter to provide your pet with fluids during surgery.
- At the time of surgery, an anaesthetic agent will be administered and your pet will be carefully monitored by a qualified and experienced veterinary nurse. When he/she is awake, they will be placed into our recovery area. This area is where our staff are working, so your pets' recovery can be carefully observed. You are welcome to call us for an update at any time.
- Going home:** After routine surgery, pets are generally able to go home on the same day. We will book a discharge appointment between 3.30pm and 5pm.
- We are often asked whether or not an owner should stay home to care for a pet after surgery. If you are considering making special plans to be with your pet, we suggest you take the day after surgery off, rather than the day of surgery. That being said, this is usually not necessary as your pet should make a speedy recovery.
- When you get home, your pet will require somewhere warm and quiet to recover from their big day and sleep off the anaesthetic. One of our nurses will provide you with after care information on the day. Until your recheck appointment, you will need to check the surgical wound daily to make sure it is clean and healthy. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our friendly staff.

Warm hearts for cold noses

