

## Instructions before surgery

### Food and Water:

**Adult dogs and cats** – Do not feed your adult cat or dog after 11 pm the night before surgery. Also, do not feed your pet the morning of surgery. If your pet accidentally eats the morning of surgery, let a staff member know at drop-off. Surgery can still be done 6 hours after the meal.

**Puppies and Kittens (less than 6 months of age)**- Young pets should be fed their normal amount until the morning of surgery, at which time they should be fed **ONLY** 1/4 of the normal amount they would normally receive. This is important since they need food to maintain normal sugar levels throughout the day. They can have water until they leave the house to be dropped off for surgery.

### Flea and Heartworm Prevention

Veterinarian approved flea and tick preventatives (Advantage, Frontline, Revolution) can be applied prior to or right after surgery. Over-the-counter flea preventatives (Heartz, BioSpot, Sergeants) are potentially toxic and should **NOT** be used. Flea collars are also toxic, especially in combination with anesthesia and will be removed and disposed of if present during pre-operative exam.

Veterinarian prescribed heartworm prevention (Advantage Multi, Interceptor, Heartguard, Revolution, Trifexis) is safe to give prior to or after surgery.

### Prescription medications

To ensure that there will not be complications with anesthetic or pain medications, it's important that you tell us if your pet has been given any prescription or over the counter medications during the month prior to surgery. If your pet is on a long term medication (e.g. phenobarbital, prednisone, insulin), please contact your regular veterinarian prior to surgery to determine if your pet should receive the medication the day of surgery.

### Nursing Animals

If your female dog or cat recently had a litter, please ensure that the puppies/kittens have been separated from the mother for **at least 2 weeks** prior to surgery. The presence of milk in the mammary glands increases the risk of infection and delayed healing.

### Pediatric Surgeries

We routinely spay and neuter puppies and kittens as young as 8 weeks who weigh at least 2 lbs. Each patient will be individually evaluated prior to surgery. If a pediatric patient is considered not to be healthy enough for surgery, you will be asked to reschedule for a later date.

All pets must be securely restrained upon arrival. Please bring all dogs on a secure leash or in a crate. All cats must come in their own crate, one cat per crate. If you do not have a crate or leash please let a staff member know **prior** to getting your pet out of the car.

### **What to expect the day of Surgery**

You will be given a drop-off time for the day of surgery. Keep in mind that this is the time for your pet to be checked in and not a surgery time. Our surgery schedule consists of many procedures per day, therefore, some patients will not have surgery until later in the day. The order of the surgeries is based on patient status followed by order of arrival. If you must pickup your pet by a certain time, please let a staff member know. However, we cannot guarantee a pickup time.

Once your pet is checked in, we will examine your pet for overall health status. If your pet is not considered to be healthy for surgery, we will contact you to reschedule the procedure. If your pet is healthy, s/he will be given an injectable sedative/anesthetic followed by intubation (a tube placed in the windpipe) and gas anesthesia for maintenance. Once surgery is completed, you will be given a call with your pet's status and a pickup time.

When you pick up your pet, you will be given written instructions which will help you take care of your pet after surgery. If you bring in a stray or feral cat, please ask our staff for special instructions. The type of post-operative pain medication given to your pet will be determined by the type of surgery and other medications your pet may be taking.

If you have any questions, problems, or concerns after surgery you may contact us at our office at 614-471-9000. You can also reach us by email by sending a message to: [mblovesdogs@hotmail.com](mailto:mblovesdogs@hotmail.com) Please keep in mind that we will not be available for follow up during after hours. For post-operative emergencies, you will be supplied with a list of emergency veterinary services available in your area. These facilities are not affiliated with Columbus Dog Connection – Ohio Spay/Neuter Project and you will be responsible for their fees. Remember, the best way to prevent complications is to follow the go-home instructions carefully.