

PREPARING YOUR PET FOR SURGERY AT WESTVET

When a pet requires surgery it can be a stressful situation. We strive to make the circumstances as comfortable as possible for both you and your pet.

BEFORE SURGERY

- No food after 10 pm the night before surgery; fasting decreases the risk of vomiting while under anesthesia.
- Food may be okay for pets with conditions affecting glucose regulation (diabetes, insulin-secreting tumors) or very young patients; speak with your doctor or technician.
- Withhold medications the day of surgery; if your pet's medication cannot be disrupted and it must be taken with food, ask your doctor or technician how to proceed.
- Bring all current medications with you for administration during hospitalization with us.
- If your pet needs bathing or grooming, do so at least two days prior to surgery.
- Never shave the surgical site.
- Pets with an orthopedic condition should decrease activity level prior to surgery.

THE DAY OF SURGERY

Drop off your pet at WestVet by 7:30 am, even if your pet is scheduled for a later time.

Our surgical team performs important preparatory steps including pre-anesthetic lab work, placing IV catheters, clipping hair, administering anti-nausea medication and/or obtaining x-rays.

In addition, while we plan the surgical schedule the evening before, your pet's surgery may occur earlier or later than planned due to other pet emergencies, or the time allotted for the procedures running longer or shorter.



AFTER SURGERY

Once your pet is recovering, a surgeon will call you. If the doctor has an extensive surgical schedule, or another WestVet patient has an emergency, a surgical technician will call immediately following surgery and the doctor will call later in the day.

We recover most patients on a constant rate infusion of pain medication (similar to a morphine drip).

Our postoperative pain management works very well in enabling patients to recover from anesthesia comfortably and slowly transition to oral medication. This method also decreases post-operative nausea and anorexia.

HOSPITALIZATION AT WESTVET

Most surgical patients spend the night in our hospital where they are closely monitored by our team of technicians and ER doctors.

Feel free to call for an update on your pet anytime.

WestVet doctors hold “Rounds” daily, 8—9am and 5—6pm. This time is set aside at shift change to share vital information about each patient and ensure a smooth care transition.

Barring an emergency, doctors are typically unavailable during Rounds. However, a technician may be available to speak with you.

RETURNING HOME

On the day after surgery, you may call after Rounds (9:00am) for an update on your pet’s care plan and to potentially schedule a time to pick up your pet.

Upon arrival at WestVet, a technician will review your pet’s written dismissal instructions and medications with you—please be sure you understand all of the instructions. Do not hesitate to ask any questions.

At WestVet we strive to make you and your pets as comfortable as possible.

We realize that surgery and hospitalization can be a stressful and worrisome time, please ask questions if anything is unclear.

We thank you for allowing us to work with you and your pets



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