

Elective Surgery at Fisher Glen Animal Hospital

Your pet is about to have an elective surgery at our hospital, and there are risks to any surgery, including death, no matter how healthy your pet is. An extremely small percentage of animals may have a negative anaesthetic reaction, the same as some humans do. But there are ways to decrease the risk, and we feel that these are important precautions for all surgeries.

Preanaesthetic bloodwork: Doing preanaesthetic bloodwork allows us to assess your pet's overall health, particularly the function of vital organs such as the kidneys and liver. In a very young animal the primary purpose is to check for any congenital abnormalities, whereas in older animals we are looking for signs of illness or slowdown of organ function. Any abnormalities can affect the way that your pet handles the anaesthetic, and in many cases influences our choice of anaesthetic.

Intravenous fluids: When your animal is anaesthetized, their blood pressure generally drops a bit. This means that the kidneys are supplied with less blood. While this is a lower risk for a younger, healthy pet, it can be a significant risk in an older pet or one with early kidney disease, which is seen frequently. Intravenous fluids keep up the blood pressure and the rate at which the kidneys are supplied with fluid, and helps to protect them during the surgery. It also allows the surgical team to have direct access into your pet's bloodstream should something go wrong and emergency drugs need to be given. Animals that are on intravenous fluids while under anaesthetic are able to "flush" the anaesthetic drugs out of their system faster, and typically have safer and faster recoveries.

Whenever your pet is having an elective surgery, consider **microchipping** them for identification purposes. It provides you with more peace of mind should your pet ever get lost.