



Zionsville Country Veterinary Clinic

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At Zionsville Country Veterinary Clinic we are committed to the safety and well-being of each of our patients undergoing an anesthetic procedure. Unfortunately, even the most routine surgery has some inherent risks. To minimize these risks for your pet we carefully adhere to the following protocols.

Safety Protocol

- Complete Physical Exam
- Pre-anesthetic Blood Screen to assess organ function and changes in the blood cells
- IV catheter with fluids to improve blood pressure/allow for access in case of emergency
- Monitors: both mechanical and human track oxygen, CO₂, blood pressure, and ECG
- Warmers: maintain body temperature during the procedure and recovery

****The most important factor when it comes to safety is the fact that from the time your pet is anesthetized until it is recovered, it is constantly attended by our doctors and staff.****

Pain Prevention Protocol

- Pre-anesthetic plan: individualized pain management starts before the procedure.
- Pain levels monitored during procedure additional pain medication is given as needed.
- Local anesthetic can be used to numb a specific area.
- Post-procedure pain medication for use at home.
- Therapy Laser post-op to minimize pain sensations

Occasionally, during recovery from a surgery or dental extraction, additional medication is needed for pain. If this is needed, an additional cost will be incurred.

For complicated or painful procedures such as orthopedics, we also have an advanced system of preemptive pain management called a constant rate infusion. We have found that patients with this protocol have significant pain reduction and a very gentle recovery with limited pain.

Procedure Protocol

The ZCVC Surgical Protocol includes the standard of care required of an American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) member hospital and includes our limited use sterile surgical suite with specialized air flow, sterile surgical preparation and sterile surgical instruments. Warm water blankets on the sterile surgery table and multiple system monitors add to your pet's comfort and safety. Finally, the skilled veterinarian performing your pet's surgery treats your precious pet as if it were his or her own.

Risk Assessment

ASA Physical Status Classification System

Class I - Minimal Risk

Normal healthy animal, no known underlying disease

Class II - Slight risk, minor disease present

Animal with slight to mild systemic disturbance, animal able to compensate
Neonate or geriatric animals, obese

Class III - Moderate risk, obvious disease present

Animal with moderate systemic disease or disturbances, mild clinical signs
Anemia, moderate dehydration, fever, low-grade heart murmur or cardiac disease

Class IV - High risk, significantly compromised by disease

Animals with preexisting systemic disease or disturbances or a severe nature
Severe dehydration, shock, uremia, or toxemia, high fever, uncompensated heart disease,
uncompensated diabetes, pulmonary disease, emaciation

Class V - Extreme risk, moribund

"E" denotes emergency - For example: Class VE

Your pet's Risk Assessment is: _____

See below for admitting and discharge instructions.

Thank you for choosing Zionsville Country Veterinary Clinic for your pet's surgical and dental needs. We've compiled some information that we hope will answer any questions you may have, as well as facilitate your pet's admitting.

Admittance for anesthetic procedures is between 7:30 and 8:00 am and takes 10-15 minutes.

FOR AN ANESTHETIC PROCEDURE, WE WILL NEED YOU TO PREPARE YOUR PET BY:

- 1: Picking up the food after 10:00 pm on the night before surgery.**
- 2: Pick up the water first thing in the morning on the day of surgery.**
- 3: If your pet takes any medication in the morning, please go ahead and give them their medication on the morning of the surgery.** (see special notes for diabetics)

Please allow time; your pet's surgery is something we don't want to rush. The morning technician will go over the appropriate consent and procedure forms and will also answer any questions you may have. Vaccine records will be checked to ensure all surgical patients are currently vaccinated. If your cat has not been tested for Feline Leukemia, this will be recommended.

Plan on your pet spending the day with us. They generally will be ready to go home by late afternoon. The clinic is open until 6:00 pm. A veterinary nurse will call you after the procedure to let you know how your pet is doing and to schedule a discharge time. We can also text you with updates such as starting time and when the procedure is finished.

If your pet is anxious about coming to the vet or being away from family, consider bringing a favorite bed (if portable/washable/not "edible"), special toy or a sweatshirt you wore the day before. There is also a medication option called Trazodone which helps with anxiety. Trazodone is safe to be used with surgical patients, allowing a more relaxed recovery and less future anxiety related to veterinary visits.

Your pet may be groggy for up to 24 hours and may have some nausea and/or vomiting associated with the anesthetic. People and other pets should allow him or her to rest undisturbed until the next morning. Restricted activity, depending on the procedure, may be recommended for 7-10 days, and outdoor pets should stay inside.

DENTAL CLEANING: Often, following x-rays, diseased teeth will be found which need to be extracted. No teeth are removed unless they pose a threat to your pet's dental health. If extraction are needed, you will be contacted with a new treatment plan and updated costs prior to proceeding. PLEASE be available at the phone number you give us since your pet will be under anesthesia while we contact you. We will not proceed without your approval and will only wait a short time with your pet anesthetized. Care Credit is available if payment assistance is needed.

SUTURES: If your pet has an incision, it will need to stay clean and dry. Do not bathe or groom for 14 days.

ELIZABETHAN COLLAR: With some procedures, your pet may want to "help" the healing by licking. Unfortunately, they do not know that this can disturb a healthy incision thereby extending their recovery time. To avoid self-trauma, we may send an E-collar (think the "Cone of FAME"--no *shame* at ZCVC!) We have multiple options you can review with the veterinary nurse.

Above all, we want this experience to be positive for both you and your pet. We feel this can be accomplished with proper information and preparation. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding your pet's upcoming surgery.

CARE OF YOUR PET FOLLOWING SURGERY

FOOD AND WATER

After any anesthetic we want to take precautions to avoid any stomach upset. Please wait about 1/2 hour after getting home and offer 1/4 cup of water. If your pet takes the water well with no vomiting, offer some more. Frequent small amounts or ice cubes will be ideal.

After an hour or two, you may offer a small amount of his/her regular food. We usually give about 1/2 of the normal amount. **Don't be alarmed if they do not want to eat.** This is not unusual and by the next morning his/her appetite should be better.

If your pet experiences any vomiting, do not offer food or water for several hours. Ice cubes may still be tolerated and can be given if they do not cause vomiting. Call the clinic if any vomiting persists the next morning. If he or she experiences prolonged vomiting into the night, we encourage a call to the emergency clinic. (note the phone numbers at the bottom of this sheet)

Many patients may not have a bowel movement 24-36 hours after surgery. This is normal.

EXERCISE/WEAKNESS

Your pet may be drowsy for the next 12 hours or so. A confined, warm, quiet and comfortable area, free from other pets and children should be provided for the first night home. Do not let him or her jump up and down from the furniture. **If your pet has an incision, he or she should not be allowed to run unrestrained for the next 10-14 days. No running, jumping, swimming or energetic play should be allowed.**

CARE OF SURGERY SITE

Check the incision site daily. Some swelling can be expected, especially if he/she is fairly active. Discharge, redness, or heat should be reported to us promptly, as they may be reason for concern. Your pet may try to lick the incision site; please discourage this since serious harm may result. Please discourage other pets from licking the site as well. If he or she insists on licking the incision, use a small amount of licking deterrent provided; use only on the skin surrounding the incision, never on the incision itself. Use the protective cone if needed. The brief discomfort of the cone is much better than another surgery to repair a damaged incision. **We highly encourage you to keep the protective collar on at all times.** The incision site should not be allowed to get wet for at least 10 days. No bathing, swimming, or contact with wet, dewy grass is allowed.

FOLLOW-UP VISIT

- () Stitches/staples have been placed and need to be removed in ____ days. Please make an appointment.
- () Sutures have been placed under the skin and will dissolve in 14-21 days. No appointment needed.
- () Bandage change. Please make an appointment.

MEDICATIONS

Please give any medications as directed:

CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY IF....

* Incision opens partially or completely * Loss of appetite for more than 24 hours * Your pet persistently vomits * Refusal to drink water for more than 24 hours* Prolonged depression or weakness * Diarrhea

MedVet--open 24hrs: 317-872-8387; VCA Fishers--open 24hrs: 317-578-4100)

