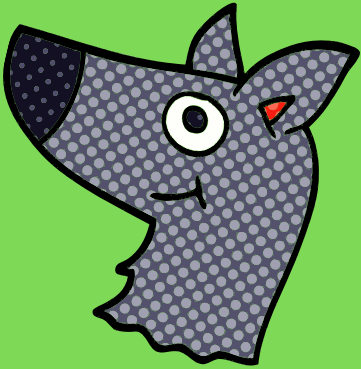
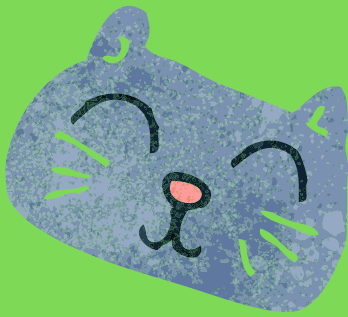


7 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR PET & GENERAL ANAESTHESIA



Pet parents are often very anxious about procedures involving a general anaesthetic. We have outlined the measures we take the day of your pet's procedure to reduce the risk to your furry family member. But of course, you should always talk to us as well so we can answer all your questions.



1

WHAT IS THE RISK?

The risk of a healthy dog dying as a result of general anaesthetic is rare (5 in 10,000). While not 0, it is very low. (There are no exact statistics for cats). Other concerns you may have are postoperative pain, nausea, unsettled behaviour or drug reactions. We will discuss our approach to these issues with you directly before and after your pet's procedure.



2

PRE-SURGICAL EXAM

Your pet will have a complete physical exam performed by the veterinarian prior to receiving any medication. The Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) will also review your pet's medical history and obtain an accurate weight.



3

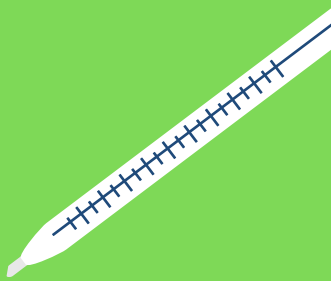
PRE-OPERATIVE BLOODWORK

Bloodwork is an important diagnostic test. It is usually done the morning of the procedure but in some cases it has already been completed. The tests check for changes in liver, kidney, protein, blood sugar level & blood cell counts. Any abnormalities will be discussed with you before we proceed as additional testing may be indicated.

4

INTRAVENOUS FLUIDS

A catheter will be placed in the vein, usually in the front leg. This allows us to deliver medication & fluids before, during and after the procedure. During surgery, fluid therapy helps keep your pet's blood pressure steady which is really important for the health of heart & kidneys as well as all other organs and tissues.



5

BALANCED ANAESTHESIA

This refers to the combination of drugs used to achieve sedation, reduce anxiety and induce general anaesthesia (the unconscious state where there is relaxation of muscles & a complete loss of pain sensation). Each drug protocol is tailored specifically to that patient's needs. When your pet is asleep, a tube is placed into the trachea (windpipe) which is how the anaesthetic gas (mixed with oxygen) is delivered to the lungs where it is breathed in by the patient.



6

MONITORING

Constant monitoring of your pet while under general anaesthesia is a key component to reducing the risk of complications. All the RVTs at Chicopee Hills Animal Hospital are highly trained in all aspects of anaesthetic monitoring. They are present with your pet throughout their procedure and during their recovery. A variety of electronic monitors are used but none of them can replace the hands on monitoring by our RVTs. They are very skilled & care for your pet like they would their very own!

HEART RATE MONITOR: shows the beats per minute of the heart
BLOOD PRESSURE MONITOR: a steady BP ensures good blood supply (nutrition) to all tissues in the body
RESPIROMETER: measures breaths per minute
CORE BODY TEMPERATURE: a circulating warm water heating pad is used.
PULSE OXIMETER: measures oxygen levels in blood & the pulse rate
CAPNOGRAPH: measures expired carbon dioxide indicating proper breathing
ECG: shows the rate and pattern of the heartbeat (normal vs. abnormal rhythm)



7

RECOVERY

Recovery time is related to the type of procedure your pet undergoes. Some pets are virtually normal when they leave the hospital while others may be sleepy for 12-24 hours. Some drugs we use can also cause sedation. All pets should be kept in a safe, quiet place at home. Protect them from the curious antics of other household pets and ensure no access to stairs. We will provide you with verbal & written instructions.

