

Countrycare Animal Complex, Inc.

4235 Elmview Road
Green Bay, WI 54311
(920) 863-3220



Dear _____

Your pet(s) _____ is(are) scheduled for a surgical or anesthetic procedure on _____ . This letter should help answer any questions that you may have and properly prepare both you and your pet for his/ her surgical or anesthetic visit. If you have any other questions not covered here (either before or after your pet's procedure), please ask.

- 1. Please withhold all food and water after 8 p.m. the night before the scheduled appointment.** Anesthetic medications can sometimes cause vomiting. Your pet could aspirate food into the lungs if there is food in the stomach. If your pet has special medical conditions (such as diabetes) or is on special medication, you will receive specific instructions regarding your pet's pre-op care.
- 2. Please check-in at Countrycare between 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. the day of the procedure** (or between 4:00-6:00 p.m. the day before surgery at no extra charge). It is important that your pet arrives by this time so that a pre-surgical examination (and blood work) can be performed. It also assures that your pet's procedure will be done in a timely manner and appropriate monitoring during recovery from anesthesia.
- 3. Comprehensive pre-surgical blood work is recommended for all pets undergoing anesthesia** (and vital for any animal over 5 years of age). This blood work checks an animal's liver and kidney function (which are essential to the body metabolizing anesthetic medications). It also evaluates blood count for anemia or infection, and electrolytes for fluid imbalances and underlying disease. Although physical examinations and blood work cannot discover every possible condition, it is a very important step toward assuring your pet's health and safety. Pre-surgical blood work can be done anytime within 30 days prior to the procedure (providing that there have not been any changes with their health in the interim).
- 4. Our staff will notify you once your pet has safely awakened from the surgical/ anesthetic procedure.** We know that you are concerned about your pet's well-being. We generally wait to call until they are fully recovered from anesthesia.. Thus, you can expect a phone call sometime after 2:00 p.m. with an update on your pet's progress. Please leave a phone number with us where you can be reached on the day of surgery/ anesthesia.
- 5. We know that the word 'anesthesia' makes many people nervous.** At Countrycare, we use isoflurane gas anesthesia, which is the one of the safest anesthetic medications available today. We also utilize anesthetic monitoring equipment to monitor your pet's vital signs at all times. Even though there are risks with any medical procedure, current anesthetic protocols and monitoring techniques have advanced in the last decade, and should put your nerves to rest.
- 6. For elective surgeries, an animal should be in good health.** If your animal is ill or stressed for any reason, please reschedule an elective surgery for a different day. Otherwise, their immune system may be over-burdened and cause a slow or difficult healing process. We also recommend that animals do not have vaccinations done at the same time as their surgery, because their immune system can only tolerate a certain number of challenges at one time. Vaccination status should be current prior to elective surgeries, and boosting of vaccinations should be done at least 2-3 weeks prior to any surgery/ anesthesia.
- 7. For many reasons (not listed here), we recommend that pets receive a high-quality vitamin-mineral supplement daily.** During times of stress, such as surgery or anesthesia, it becomes especially important for your pet to receive

(over)

a vitamin-mineral supplement to ensure that they are receiving all of the important nutrients required to promote adequate healing and proper functioning of their immune system. Vitamin B complex and Vitamin C & E are very useful to speed recovery after surgery. Please ask us for more details on this subject if you have questions.

- 8. The appropriate discharge date and time for your pet will depend upon the procedure involved and your individual pet's condition. We feel that it is in your pet's best interest that they be monitored at our hospital for any complications prior to discharging him into your care.*

We do not want you to have any concerns once you have your beloved friend home again! It is important that they are eating/drinking/eliminating properly, etc. Sometimes it can take a day or two for their systems to return to normal. (Not much different than people, if you have ever experienced surgery/anesthesia yourself.)

General guidelines follow:

<i>Dental prophylaxis only -</i>	<i>After 4:00 p.m. the same day.</i>
<i>Dental prophylaxis + other dental work –</i>	<i>After 11:00 a.m. the next day.</i>
<i>Spay/Neuter only -</i>	<i>After 11:00 a.m. the day after surgery.</i>
<i>Declaw surgery (cats) –</i>	<i>After 4:00 p.m. 1-2 days after surgery.</i>
<i>All orthopedic/soft tissue surgeries –</i>	<i>At least 2-3 days after surgery/individual basis.</i>

Post-Op Home Care Considerations

- 1. If your pet is discharged the same day as the procedure, offer a small amount of water after 8:00 p.m. If he does not vomit within one hour, you may feed ¼ of his normal food volume intake. If he vomits the water, do NOT offer food until the next morning. Anesthetic medication can cause nausea and vomiting if food/water is introduced too quickly. By the next morning, your pet should be able to handle food and water, although they may not have a big appetite. If your pet experiences any problems, please call our office.*

If your pet is discharged anytime after the original surgery day, you may resume normal food and water unless special instructions have been given to you.

- 2. If your pet is discharged with an Elizabethan Collar, it is EXTREMELY important that you follow the post-care instructions and leave the E-collar on your pet. The collar prevents them from licking their surgical incision. We know that it can be frustrating for both you and your pet, but most animals will lick their incision if given just a minute of opportunity! Your pet's licking will cause severe irritation and can cause potentially dangerous consequences (e.g. abdominal incision opening and intestines exposed, etc...)*
- 3. If you receive take-home instructions and/or medication(s) for your pet at discharge, please follow the instructions carefully. The most important part of animal's recovery is the nursing care it receives at home following the procedure. If any questions arise during the aftercare, PLEASE call our office!!*
- 4. Some pets will experience some tracheal irritation from the endotracheal tube that is placed in their throat to administer oxygen/gas anesthesia. Sometimes they will cough a little or have a 'hoarse' voice for a couple of days.*
- 5. If skin sutures are a part of your pet's surgical experience, you will need to return in 14 days for suture removal (at no additional cost). This procedure takes approximately 5-10 minutes and can be scheduled when your pet is discharged from surgery. Do not bathe your pet until after skin sutures are removed, or at least 14 days after surgery if skin sutures were not used, to allow time for the tissues to heal properly.*

*Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to help you and your pet.
Our goal is to keep your pet healthy and happy for a lifetime.*