



TREMAIN VETERINARY GROUP

Treating your pet like one of the family

Advice Note 8.0

PREPARING YOUR PET FOR SURGERY

All members of staff are or have been pet-owners so we understand the concern you feel when one of your pets has to undergo an operation. This information is designed to help you in preparing your pet and yourself for surgery.

What do I need to do before the operation?

- **No food** must be given to cats, dogs and ferrets after 8pm the evening before the operation, however water can be made readily available. The reason for this is that your pet needs to have an empty stomach so that there is no risk of vomiting under anaesthesia.
- Prevent cats from going out the evening before the operation, as you will be unaware if they have eaten – either by hunting or being fed by a neighbour.
- Small pets e.g. hamsters, rabbits, rats, mice and guinea pigs must **NOT** be deprived of water or starved before anaesthesia. Their metabolism is different from cats and dogs and they require a constant source of food. They are unlikely to vomit under an anaesthetic.

What will happen on the day of my pets operation?

- Patients are admitted between 8.30 and 9.00 and you will be advised of the admission time when you arrange the date of the operation.
Please ensure that your dog is wearing a safe and secure collar and lead.
Cats and small animals should be brought inside safe and secure carriers.
- You will have the procedure explained to you and will be asked to sign a consent form for the anaesthetic and procedure to be carried out. It is important you check all details are correct, especially the contact number and that you are available on your contact number.

What happens to my pet after I leave it?

- When your pet has been admitted, the veterinarian will prepare and administer a pre-medication. This helps your pet settle down and aids induction and recovery from anaesthetic.
- The operation is carried out by a veterinarian, under sterile conditions in one of the operating theatres. Qualified veterinary nurses will constantly monitor your pet's vital signs under the anaesthetic throughout the procedure.

TREMAIN VETERINARY GROUP

Treating your pet like one of the family

Advice Note 8.0

- Patient recovery occurs in a comfortable and warm kennel area, where your pet is kept under careful observation.
- You will be asked to call us around 2.30pm, so that we can discuss progress and arrange a time for your pet to be collected.
- After major surgery it is sometimes necessary to keep your pet hospitalised overnight. This is not something to be too concerned about and a veterinarian will discuss the reasons for this with you.

What should I do when I take my pet home?

- Your pet must be kept warm and quiet.
- For cats and dogs offer some bland food e.g. scrambled egg, boiled white fish or chicken. Do not worry if your pet is not hungry, they may not feel up to eating that night. It is really important, however, that small pets i.e. rabbits, guinea pigs, rats, mice and hamsters etc eat within 24hrs and we should be contacted immediately if they do not.
- Ensure water is freely available.
- Follow the instructions you receive when you collect your pet. Check the dosage of any medication you may need to give and keep an eye on any wounds. Until the stitches are removed (usually 10 days after surgery) look out for any bleeding, swelling or discharge and check the stitches are still in place – your pet has not chewed them out.
- Contact the practice if you are concerned, your pet remains sleepy or does not want to eat after 24 hours. You must also contact us if your pet has not passed urine or faeces for 24 hours.
- Your pet may have a slight cough due to the tube in its windpipe used to deliver anaesthesia. This is nothing to worry about and will soon disappear.

We hope this leaflet answers your queries, but if you require any further advice, please do not hesitate to ask one of our nursing staff who will be more than happy to assist.