

## What should I do before my pet has surgery?

### Pre-operative Instructions:

- All animals having surgery should arrive at the clinic between 7:45 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. on the morning of their surgery unless prior arrangements have been made with the office. For your convenience, we can board your pet overnight the night before surgery for no additional charge (please note, we are not staffed overnight).
- If your pet is over 4 months of age, please withhold all food after midnight the night before surgery. Small breeds that are 4 months of age and younger are permitted to have food until 6 am on the day of their surgery. Diabetic patients may also be permitted to have food and insulin the morning of their surgery, depending on the situation. If your pet is very small, very young, or has health issues such as diabetes, please discuss breakfast options prior to surgery. ALL pets are allowed to have water up until their arrival for surgery (we encourage you to leave water down for them so that they do not become dehydrated before surgery).
- Please make sure your pet stays indoors the night before surgery. Dogs may go out for supervised bathroom breaks only.
- Please be sure to allow your pet to use the bathroom the morning of surgery – having full bowels and bladders can make surgery difficult and recovery uncomfortable.
- All cats must come in secure carriers or humane traps. All dogs must be brought on a leash.
- Like you, our greatest concern is the well-being of your pet. Before putting your pet under anesthesia we will perform a full physical examination. However, many conditions, including disorders of the liver, kidneys and blood are not detected unless blood testing is performed. A simple basic screen of major organ systems is the minimal recommendation for a pre-anesthesia screen. Pets of all ages benefit from the basic healthy pre-anesthesia blood screen. As our pets age, there is a greater chance of functional decreases in their bodies, just as in ours. Therefore, in middle aged and senior pets over 7 years old, we recommend an expanded profile of tests. In addition, the results of these tests will serve as reference values for future use if your pet becomes ill. Tests are run in our fully equipped laboratory. Results are immediately available before anesthesia and/or surgery.