

## Pre-operative tests and other procedures

### Preoperative Blood Tests:

We are able to offer preoperative blood tests to check your pets internal organ function and to ensure that there is no signs of anaemia or infection in the body. We would advise that you strongly consider have a preoperative blood test done if your pet is over the age of 10, or has any history of prior medical problems. However, we are happy to take a preoperative blood sample on any pet should you wish.

In order to benefit from this service, please make an appointment a couple of days before the planned procedure with a vet or a nurse for the samples to be taken.

### Intravenous Fluids:

If a preoperative blood sample indicates areas of concern, if your pet is elderly, or if your pet has a previous history of kidney or liver problems then we will advise that your pet receives intravenous fluids ('goes on a drip') for their anaesthetic.

Placing your pet on intravenous fluids will assist to maintain their blood pressure under anaesthesia and help to prevent any potential problems. If you wish your pet to receive intravenous fluids then please request this at time of admission.

### Other tests:

Should the admitting nurse or vet have any concerns regarding your pets general health then other pre anaesthetic tests may be advised. These may include ECG's, heart scans and further investigations.

Please be aware that these extra tests and Procedures will incur further charges above any estimates that may have been given.

## Your Appointment:

Pets' Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Procedure: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Admission: \_\_\_\_\_

### Any Special Instructions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**For further help and advice, please contact your nearest surgery:**

**Stone: 01785 813955**

**Hanley: 01782 214683**

**Eccleshall: 01785 850218**

**Gnosall: 01785 823713**

**Loggerheads: 01630 673568**



## Pre-operative Instructions



....everything you need to know before your pet comes to stay with us

**Shires Veterinary Practice  
Caring for your pets  
throughout Staffordshire**

## Pre-operative Instructions

This leaflet is designed to help answer some of the questions you may have regarding the administration of a general anaesthetic to your pet. If you have further queries or concerns, please speak to your veterinary surgeon.

### The need for anaesthetics

While most routine diagnostic procedures such as x-rays are performed in conscious humans, veterinary patients are seldom cooperative enough to lie still for the periods of time necessary to perform these tasks. Thus general anaesthesia or heavy sedation is often required in animals.

Therefore, while you may think it relatively unusual, your pet may need to be anaesthetised for something as simple as an x-ray of its leg. It might seem logical to assume that heavy sedation may somehow be safer than a full general anaesthetic. However, this is not necessarily the case, and you should be guided by the advice of your veterinary surgeon as to which they consider is most appropriate for the particular situation.

Although modern sedative and anaesthetic agents are very safe, all anaesthetics do carry a small risk to the life of the animal. This is usually minimal, but any concerns should be discussed with your veterinary surgeon.

### The night before:

For dogs, cats and ferrets please remove food at 8pm the night before a planned procedure. Ensuring that your pet has an empty stomach will reduce the risk of your pet vomiting under the anaesthetic or sedation. Water can be safely left down for your pet until you bring him or her into us the next morning. Please keep cats indoors the night before an anaesthetic with a litter tray to prevent access to any food.

Dogs should be taken out for a short walk on a lead to empty their bladder and bowels before coming into the surgery.

For 'small pets' (rabbits, guinea pigs and the like) it is very important that they have constant access to food and water right up until they come into the surgery.

Please ensure that you bring some of their usual food with them, and it is a good idea to bring their normal drinking bottle or bowl with you.

### The morning of your pets' anaesthetic:

You may be given a specific time to bring your pet to the surgery. If not, please arrive between 8.30am and 9.30am.

If your pet takes any regular medication then please check with the surgery beforehand whether you are to give this on the morning of admission.

For most procedures you will be seen by the admitting nurse that morning, however if we have not seen your pet before, or they are booked in for a complex investigation you may be admitted directly by the vet involved in your pets' care for the day.

At admission you will be asked to read and sign a consent form for the procedure. The consent form explains that there is always a potential risk involved with any anaesthetic or sedative, however here at Shires Veterinary Practice we use human standard anaesthetics which are very safe and the risks involved are minimal.

You will also be asked to leave a contact telephone number. Please ensure that you leave a telephone number that you can be immediately contactable on between 10 am and 2pm.

Please read the consent form carefully at admission. The person signing the consent form must be over the age of 18.

You may request an estimate for the procedure, either prior to or at the time of admission. However, please be aware that this is an estimate only and that further costs may be incurred should complications arise, or should a procedure prove to be more complex than first thought.

We will make every attempt to contact you should a procedure look likely to exceed the estimate by more than 20%

### After Admission:

Once your pet has been admitted into the surgery, they will be weighed and an injection of a pre-med will be given. This is a sedative injection which also has pain relief as well.

Your pet will then be settled into their kennel for the day. All patients are housed in their own kennel, and dogs, cats and small pets all have their own wards.

Please be aware that your pet will have shaved areas where anaesthesia (& surgery) has been performed.

Your pet will be anaesthetised by the veterinary surgeon performing the procedure, and the anaesthetic will be monitored throughout the procedure by one of our veterinary nurses or student veterinary nurses. After their procedure, your pet will be returned to their kennel to recover, where they can be offered a drink of water and food if necessary.

We will advise you at admission how to contact the surgery to check on your pets' progress. In most cases, if you have not heard from us by 1pm then please telephone the surgery where you will be given a time to collect your pet.

If your pet is in for a complex procedure or investigation then the vet will endeavour to telephone you once they have any news.

You will receive written discharge instructions when you collect your pet.

If your pet is insured, please bring a claim form with you along with a copy of your policy certificate if possible.

The majority of our patients return home bright and bouncy the same day

**If you have any questions or concerns then please do not hesitate to contact the surgery**



Shires Veterinary Practice  
Caring for your pets throughout  
Staffordshire