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## Pre-Surgical and Drop-Off Instructions

Read through the following information carefully to be prepared for your pet's day of surgery.

### Scheduling Surgery

- All pets must be examined by a Paws and Claws Animal Care doctor prior to surgery.
- Additionally, hospital policy requires vaccinations given by a veterinarian to be current prior to surgery or a stay in the hospital. If you are a client of Paws and Claws Animal Care, we will check this requirement for you. If you had vaccines done outside our hospital, please bring proof of vaccinations during business hours any time but no later than the morning of drop-off.
- Please let the doctor know if your pet is on any medications. Most medications may be continued; however antihypertensive (Enalapril, Benazepril) and anticoagulants (Clopidogrel, Aspirin) may need to be discontinued. Talk to the veterinary team as these medications are not all inclusive.

### The Day Before Surgery

- Do not feed your pet after midnight. If fed, the procedure will need to be rescheduled for a later date.

### Drop-Off

- Bring your pet to Paws and Claws at 7:30 am unless instructed differently by the doctor or staff.
- Water may be offered up to the time of leaving home.
- Plan to spend 30 minutes at the hospital as the check-in process includes some paperwork.

### Pre-Surgical Blood Work

- We recommend blood work on all patients to reduce the risks of anesthesia complications. A CBC (Complete Blood Count) will ensure your pet is not anemic, the blood is able to clot correctly, and no preexisting infection is present. A chemistry panel checks to make sure the liver and kidneys can process and eliminate the anesthetic, thus reducing the chance of an anesthetic complication.
- **Patients over the age of 7 years-old are required to have bloodwork before anesthesia.**

- Bloodwork can be done during the surgery scheduling visit, prior to drop off, but for your convenience, it can also be done the morning of surgery. I.V. Catheter
- We recommend the placement of an I.V. Catheter which allow the staff to quickly administer emergency medication should the need arise, as well as systematically administer anesthesia, antibiotics, and pain medication.
- In addition, I.V. fluids can be given during the procedure to help flush anesthesia and keep your pet hydrated.

### **Medications**

- Based on the nature of surgery, medications may be prescribed.
- A small treat, small amount of dog food, or a pill pocket for pets may make administering medication less difficult.
- The Paws and Claws veterinary staff will discuss your pet's medication regimen with you upon discharge of your pet.

### **Dental Cleaning (If Applicable)**

- It is not uncommon for one or several teeth to be removed during a dental procedure.
- Only teeth that medically must be removed will be extracted.
- Should the need to have extensive extractions or oral surgery, a reasonable attempt will be made to contact you to inform you of any additional costs associated with the procedure. If you cannot be contacted the providing veterinarian will make the decision as how to proceed based on the best care of your pet.

### **For your Consideration**

- While under anesthesia, it is a good time to have your pet micro-chipped, if not already done.
- This will increase the chances of you and your pet being reunited should you become separated.
- Most Veterinarians, humane societies, shelters, and rescue organizations do not charge to read a lost pet's chip.
- Let us know if you would like micro-chipping to be done during the surgery procedure.

### **Hospital Discharge**

- Most surgery patients are discharged the same day. It is rare to require overnight hospitalization for routine surgeries.
- We will let you know when your pet will be ready to be discharged.
- You will be briefed as well as receive written home care instructions. It is extremely important to follow these instructions.