



Pre-op Instructions for Surgery/Dentistry

The following are pre-operative instructions for the week prior to and morning of your pet's anesthesia event.

- 1) The week prior to anesthesia please administer the Protandim once each morning. This will continue once each morning after surgery until all the medication has been used.
Protandim is a gentle supplement that helps decrease inflammation when taken for extended periods of time. Starting before the surgery is crucial with this supplement.
- 2) The 2-3 days prior to the procedure, please sleep in an old T-shirt that you do not need back. Pets can smell even when they are under anesthesia. Your scent before, during and after surgery will be extraordinarily calming. Please bring in a plastic bag the morning of their hospital stay.
- 3) Your pet may have water up to midnight the night before the procedure.
- 4) The day before the procedure, administer gabapentin as directed. This medication may make your pet groggy. Gabapentin is for nerve pain, but we now know it also helps significantly to calm pets especially when started before a scary situation occurs. They may be sleepy, but this is ok. It is short term and worth the benefit. Please begin this medication at least 2 days before surgery if possible. It is given every 12 hours (morning and night). It can be given with most other medications but please verify with us if your pet takes other medications.
- 5) On the morning of the procedure, administer the Protandim and gabapentin as soon as you get up. You may use a small amount of cheese, bread, peanut butter, cream cheese, hot dog, etc. to administer the medications. Do not however, give a full meal.
- 6) If your pet takes other regular medications, please be sure to let us know as we will generally have you continue these. Continue any anti-seizure medications, thyroid medications and behavior medications. Do NOT administer Insulins but bring it with you so we may dose it as needed.
- 7) Please arrive between 7:30 am and 7:45 am the morning of your pet's procedure.
Don't forget the T-shirt!

We are constantly learning new information about the best way to care for our patients.

Humans have reasonable expectations of what they face with surgery or hospital stays. Pets have no such understanding or warning for such events.

Though we take every precaution to minimize pain and fear, our pets have no way to prepare for a trip to the veterinary hospital. They do not understand why they have been left in a strange place and are undergoing scary, sometimes painful procedures. Such visits often lead to greater fear in the future about coming to the vet. This is one reason we are so careful about how we approach our patient's care. We are asking owners to help us in this process and to minimize the fears through the preceding steps.

Thank you for helping to make sure your pet's surgery is as peaceful as possible.