

Anesthesia Safety Protocol

The Veterinarians at Sheeler Road Animal Hospital continually strive to bring you and your pet the best medical care possible. Anesthetic safety is a serious concern for many pet owners whether their pets require a routine procedure or major surgery. Our veterinarians take this concern very seriously and have developed a standard of care for all surgical patients that includes detailed anesthetic monitoring, a dedicated surgery technician and comprehensive pain control for all patients.

The following procedures are standard for all surgical patients:

- Pre-operative physical examination.
- Pre-operative pain medications. Recent studies have shown superior post-operative pain control when pain medication has been administered prior to surgery.
- Our hospital utilizes isoflurane gas anesthesia. This is considered safer than using injections alone because our patients have a breathing tube in place and we are able to increase or decrease the depth of anesthesia as needed on a minute-by-minute basis.
- We staff a dedicated surgical technician to monitor each patient throughout the entire time he or she is under anesthesia and then throughout the afternoon after surgery.
- All patients are monitored with state-of-the-art equipment that includes EKG monitoring, pulse oximetry (blood oxygen levels), capnography (respiratory rate and carbon dioxide levels), body temperature and blood pressure.
- Warm water blankets are used to keep patients warm throughout surgery and into recovery. Maintaining a normal body temperature helps prevent a delayed recovery and warm water blankets are able to do this without the risk of burning the patient.
- The toe-nails are trimmed.
- A post-operative pain management plan is tailored to each patient.

In addition to the above, we strongly recommend the following for an additional fee:

****Pre-anesthetic Blood Work (\$73.50):** A Chem10, Complete Blood Cell Count, and electrolytes are performed to evaluate your pet's basic organ function (liver, kidneys, blood sugar and protein levels), clotting cells, and to check for anemia and infection. This information allows us to further evaluate your pet's anesthetic risk as well as tailor an anesthetic protocol specific to his or her medical concerns.

****IV catheter and IV fluids (\$70.00):** An IV catheter is placed and IV fluids are administered for the duration of anesthesia. The benefit is twofold; (1) the IV catheter allows immediate access to a vein if the patient were to require emergency medical intervention during the procedure, and (2) the fluids combat the lowering of blood pressure seen during anesthesia. Maintaining a normal blood pressure helps to stabilize the heart rate and protect the kidneys from any long-term effects of lowered blood pressure.

***In some senior patients or patients with pre-existing medical conditions, pre-anesthetic blood work or IV fluid support may be required.*

Combined Package Price (\$124.75) – includes IV catheter and blood work

The following services are also available while your pet is anesthetized:

HOMEAGAIN Microchip (\$54.85) – includes tax and registration of the microchip
Radiographic Hip Screening (\$90.00)