

Anesthesia and Your Pet

As with every procedure at Germantown Veterinary Clinic, your pet's comfort and safety is our primary concern. Anesthesia and surgery can be one of the most stressful times for your pet. We do everything we can to minimize this stress and discomfort while using protocols based on safety with efficacy. We understand that cost is definitely a factor in choosing your pet's health care and we want to be sure that you understand some of the differences between our hospital and most providers of low-cost care.

Minimizing Patient Stress: The veterinary clinic can be a scary place for pets especially without the comfort of their owners. The stress that follows can make many anesthetics and sedatives less effective, leading to the use of a higher dose. Because we care about your pet we want to make sure they feel comfortable and the added bonus is we can use a lower dose of sedatives with the same effect. Using a lower dose decreases the chance of adverse side effects.

Proper Pain Management: Pets experience pain in much the same way we do. Because many pets are driven by instinct to hide signs of pain (pain is viewed as weakness in nature) we must assume that if the procedure would hurt us, it would hurt them. Pain left untreated can lead to decreased healing, infection and many other complications. We begin treating for pain before the procedure starts and ensure we use a dynamic approach- using several classes of pain medications when warranted. Pets also go home with pain medications to be continued for an average of 5 days.

IV catheters and fluids: All patients undergoing general anesthesia have an IV catheter placed prior to induction and fluids are given until completion of the procedure. This helps maintain hydration and blood pressure and allows for quick IV access in the event of an emergency.

Proper Anesthetics: We use a multimodal approach to anesthesia. By using a combination of pain medications, sedatives, IV anesthetics and gas anesthetics we can use smaller amounts of each increasing safety and effectiveness.

Proper Monitoring: We use external monitoring- EKG, oxygen saturation and blood pressure- as well as a technician dedicated exclusively to monitoring your pet throughout the anesthetic procedure.

Proper Recovery Conditions: We do our best to ensure every patient recovers from anesthesia in a dim, quiet and warm setting while being closely monitored for any complications.

Proper Surgical Equipment: We use quality instruments and suture material, decreasing the chance of complication during and after the procedure. All instruments are sterilized in an autoclave.

Do not hesitate to ask questions of your veterinary health care provider. You have the right and responsibility to your pet to know what you are paying for. Ask for their protocols for pain control. Do they have a technician monitoring only their pet during surgery? Do they re-use syringes or other disposable materials? Will your pet have an IV catheter and fluids? All of these things can be expensive. These things may not be important to you but they are to your pet and to our standard of care. Please check our Links/Resources page for low cost information. Thank you !