



Preparation for Surgery

If you have decided to pursue the recommended surgical treatment for your pet, you will need to take the following steps to facilitate scheduling of the procedure and preoperative procedures:

- Please call (757) 935-9111 and we will be able to help you schedule the surgical procedure on either a Tuesday or Thursday.
- If your pet has not had lab work done within 2 weeks, then a CBC and biochemical profile (+/- urinalysis) will need to be submitted to a reference lab by either our hospital or your referring veterinarian. Preferably 2 days prior to the scheduled procedure so that the results are available on the day before the procedure. Additional diagnostics (chest x-rays, cardiac evaluation, etc.) may be recommended in certain patients based on age and/ or patient status. Please call to verify what diagnostics will be needed to complete your pet's pre-anesthetic evaluation.
- If your pet has been prescribed any anti-inflammatory medication (ex. Rimadyl, Deramaxx, Previcox, etc.) please discontinue giving this medication preferably 7 days (or as soon as possible) prior to the scheduled procedure.
- Please do not change your pet's diet or feed your pet anything unusual the week before your pet's scheduled surgery.
- You will need to withhold food and water after midnight the night before the scheduled procedure unless otherwise instructed by Dr. Stallings. Please do not feed more than your pet's normal size or frequency of meals at any time before surgery, as it increases the chance of pre, intra, and post-operative regurgitation and vomiting. Feed a small, late-night snack before bed (approximately 1/4 of their normal meal).
- You will receive a pre-anesthetic email to check in on your pet that will ask a series of questions to make sure your pet is ready for general anesthesia. You will receive the email 48-72 hours before your pet's scheduled surgery. The email requires a response within 24 hours. If we do not receive an email response, we will contact you via phone on the morning before your pet's scheduled surgery.
- If you notice anything abnormal prior to your pet's scheduled surgery, please contact the COVE immediately.
- Surgery day drop off is between 7:00am-8:30am on the day that surgery has been scheduled. You will receive a phone call the evening before your pet's scheduled surgery to schedule a 15-minute surgery check in slot.
- Discharges will be held the following day, unless further hospitalization is indicated. We will schedule a tentative discharge at the consultation. Discharges typically take about 30 minutes.
- If you have any questions regarding Dr. Stallings' recommendations or any of the information concerning preparation of your pet for surgery, please call (757) 935-9111.

Thank you!