

Take Home Instructions

DROP OFF TIME IS BETWEEN 7:30AM AND 8:00AM

NO FOOD AFTER 6PM THE DAY BEFORE THE PROCEDURE AND NO WATER THE MORNING OF THE PROCEDURE.

What is general anesthesia and why is it necessary for my pet?

We need the cooperation of our patient (your pet) during the procedure. If your pet were to move due to fear or discomfort, injury could result and we could not perform a thorough, safe procedure. General anesthesia can be thought of as producing a very relaxed type sleep.

How safe are general anesthetics?

The safety of modern anesthesia has increased substantially with increased knowledge, modern equipment and modern anesthetic drugs. In addition to our training in veterinary school, our veterinary staff keeps up-to-date by attending seminars, consulting with specialists, and studying new information as it becomes available.

The first step we take to perform a safe anesthetic procedure is to determine what information should be obtained to best prepare your pet for the anesthetic. Your pet's medical history, current state of health and current medications will be reviewed.

The next step is to decide which type of pre-anesthetic medication is necessary for your pet's safety and comfort prior to the procedure. During anesthesia, your pet's vital signs will be carefully monitored to evaluate how he/she is responding to the procedure, thereby allowing adjustment of the anesthetic depth as necessary.

One safety feature of modern gas anesthetics is that, to a degree, they are eliminated from the body by simply exhaling. This reduces the amount of work that organs such as the liver or kidneys perform in breaking down and eliminating drugs. The gas anesthetic that we utilize at Avalon is called isoflurane. This is one of the most modern gas anesthetics available today and it is also used frequently in human medicine.

How should I best prepare my pet for general anesthesia?

Food should be withheld from your pet beginning at 6:00pm the day preceding anesthesia. Water should not be given the morning of the procedure. The pet's normal routine can generally be maintained, however, stressful activities should be avoided. We may have specific instructions pertinent to your particular pet as well. Please have your pet in our office between 7:30am and 8:00am the morning of the procedure.

We require blood screening for all animals receiving anesthesia for any treatment or surgery. This testing assists us in detecting possible underlying abnormalities that could potentially add to the risks involved for your pet. For any patient under 2 years of age, we require a complete blood count (CBC) and an Activated Clotting time. For any patient over 2 years of age, we require a complete blood count (CBC), activated clotting time, chemistry, and electrolytes be run before the procedure. We will run these tests in our clinic in the morning before we start the procedure. Certain procedures may require further bloodwork that would be submitted to a lab prior to the surgery. We will inform you ahead of time if this is the case.

How long will it take for my pet to recover?

Recovery depends on several factors including the type of procedure involved, length of anesthesia and the pre-medication utilized. The use of isoflurane greatly accelerates the recovery time. Some pets may seem slightly groggy or uncoordinated in the evening after having anesthesia. Care should be taken to keep your pet safe from potential hazards (stairs, decks, etc). All effects of anesthesia should be gone within 24hours. Please call us with any concerns or questions!