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Pre-Surgical Information: Canine

No pet owner likes the thought of their special friend undergoing a routine surgery. We take great pride in the quality of care we provide to your pet every time they visit. Your pet's health is of highest concern to us here at Windrush Veterinary Services and we will do anything and everything we can to maintain that health. Our ultimate goal is provide the absolute best care for your pet and make them feel as comfortable as possible while they are away from home.

All pets receive a pre-surgical nose-to-tail physical examination to determine their health status. In addition to this examination, we may recommend other diagnostic testing prior to surgery. These tests are used to help us get inside look at your pets health. Diagnostic testing cannot detect all potential problems that may arise during surgery but it gives us our very best chance at a low-risk procedure. Rest assured, if you opt out of additional diagnostic testing - your pet will absolutely still receive the same standard of care from all of our staff during their stay.

These tests may include:

- * Blood counts to asses blood components
- * Blood chemistry profile to asses organ functions
- * Heartworm testing
- * Urinalysis
- * Radiographs

ANY ABNORMALITIES DIAGNOSED MAY NEED TO BE CORRECTED PRIOR TO SURGERY.

If we observe any abnormalities on the day of surgery, you will be contacted immediately. Abnormalities may include: anemia, liver/kidney concerns, diabetes etc. Our staff would never consider doing surgery on your pet if there were increased risks without discussing everything in detail with you. We use the best anesthesia agents available and are advancing our anesthetic protocols and technqiues constantly. All surgical procedures are preformed with sterile instruments and gloves and each patient receives their own individual sterile packs. Surgical vital sign monitoring is used routinely to ensure the utmost safety during all procedures. In addition, a registered veterinary technician (RVT) is stays with your pet from the beginning to the end of anesthesia as well as well your pet is in recovery.

Please follow these instructions for all surgical procedures:

- * The night before surgery: please, no food or water after midnight.
- * The morning of surgery: please, arrive promptly at the clinic between 8-8:30am
- * Please have all dogs arrive safely on a leash or harness etc.
- * Exercise your pet the morning of to encourage bowel movements prior to surgery.
- * Feel free to bring along a small amount of your dog's food in order to encourage him/her to eat a small meal after surgery.

WHEN YOUR PET IS ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL:

Be sure to tell us about anything concerns you may have with your pets health or the procedure. We welcome you to ask any and all questions you might have. In addition to your pets health, our main priority to have you, the owner, feel as comfortable as possible about everything your pet is undergoing while in our care. Also, be sure to let our staff know any special requests you may have for your pet while they are here. For example: dewclaw removal, retained baby teeth removal, anal gland expression, parasite screen etc.

WHAT OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE ON SURGERY DAY?

When you bring your pet into the clinic to admitted, an RVT will review the procedure details with you and discuss any options that may be available. Some of the options that are available for elective procedures include:

1.) PRE SURGICAL BLOOD PROFILE:

Pre surgical blood work is an important tool used to evaluate your pets overall health status. Although abnormalities are uncommon, we may see problems such as anemia, platelet(bleeding) disorders, blood cells changes, or organ dysfunction. These problems may influence or be influenced by the anesthesia during the procedure. Even young animals that appear healthy may have medical conditions that put them at risk. An additional benefit is obtaining baseline data for future comparisons and gaining a general health assessment. For elective surgeries with our low-risk patients we offer a presurgical panel that includes a CBC and minor blood chemistry panel which focuses on the enzymes most effected by the anesthetic.

2.) MICROCHIPPING:

Microchipping is a universally recognized, permanent form of identification for your pet. Identification tags or collars may be lost, damaged or too old to read. Tattoos can easily stretch and fade making them nearly impossible to read. A microchip is always available to positively identify each pet to its owner. If your pet is lost or stolen; any veterinary clinic, SPCA, humane society or shelter can scan your pet for a microchip. Once their unique number is obtained, they are traced back to you so they may be safely returned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

REQUIRED TESTING/PROCEDURE FOR SURGICAL PROCEDURES AS PER CLINIC PROTOCOL:

1) IV CATHETER PLACEMENT/IV FLUIDS

When pets are sedated they experience a decreased blood pressure from the sedation. Intravenous (IV) catheterization & fluids therapy during anesthesia are recommended to reduce this risk. In addition, this extra measure allows us to administer life saving drugs in case of an emergency. Administering fluid therapy also assists us flush anesthesia from your pets system to aid in a quicker, lower risk recovery. All schools of Veterinary Medicine and prominent veterinary specialists recommend that each pet receives IV catheterization and fluid therapy during any anesthetic procedure.

All elective surgeries include the cost of surgical fluids and catheter placement to ensure a safe anesthetic and quick recovery of your pet.

2). UP TO DATE HEARTWORM TESTING :

A heartworm test is required on dogs over 6 months of age prior to anesthetic and surgery unless currently on a prevention product. It takes only one bite from an infected mosquito to transmit heartworm disease. Our clinic identifies heartworm as a serious threat to both indoor and outdoor pets each year. If your pet is positive for heartworm, it drastically increases your pets anesthetic risk. Heartworm testing is strongly recommended on an annual basis for all dogs. For more details on how to begin preventing heartworm, contact our staff.