

MINTLAW VET SURGERY

Dunshillock Mintlaw AB42 4JN

Tel 01771 624001

This document explains various aspects of our practice policy on general anaesthesia. Here you will find information explaining all about anaesthesia and blood testing. If the vet recommends surgery for your pet, an estimate of the costs involved will be given to you.

Payment is expected on your pet's discharge and a request will be made on admission as to the method of payment.

It is important we are able to contact you, in case there are any unforeseen problems, other treatments needed or the cost of treatment is likely to be more than the estimate. So please make sure we have a contact number for an authorised person.

If unable to contact anyone for permission the vet will use their own discretion and treat accordingly and therefore the final invoice will possibly be more than the estimate.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO

Starve your pet from 11pm the night before the operation, lift their water dish in the morning. **This does not include rabbits and other small rodents which should not be starved, please take their food in with you.**

Allow your dog to go to the toilet before admission but please avoid dirty puddles!

The operation will take place during the morning, please telephone between 1.00pm and 1.30pm, when the Nurse will let you know how your pet is progressing.

Please read through the enclosed information prior to the operation and if you have any queries please ask your veterinary nurse for more information

ANAESTHESIA INFORMATION

When you go into hospital you naturally expect the best and very latest treatment, we believe that your pet deserves a similar approach.

We recommend that your pet has a pre-anaesthetic blood test before the operation; this gives an indication of liver and kidney function, so that we can alter the anaesthesia accordingly. There will be an extra charge for this, approx £43.50 inc VAT.

PRE-ANAESTHETIC EXAMINATION - This practice routinely weighs all patients prior to anaesthesia. The pre-anaesthetic blood test is done in the surgery and we recommend this to be done to pets over 8 years of age. All our surgical admissions are given a pre-med consisting of a sedative, a morphine type painkiller and a non-steroidal type painkiller and antibiotic if appropriate. These drugs are given to settle your pet into the kennel and to pre-empt any pain that may arise during or after the surgery. The vet will also give your dog a check over before going ahead with any surgery.

GENERAL ANAESTHESIA - Your pet is to undergo a surgical procedure. We use the newest anaesthetic agents, these drugs are now used extensively for human anaesthesia. Animals anaesthetised with these agents go to sleep in a smooth and well-controlled manner and wake up more rapidly, with very little 'hangover'. Furthermore, they have less effect on a number of vital organs including the liver, kidneys and heart. They are especially suitable for 'day case surgery' - where patients operated upon can go home on the same day. These agents allow us to return your pet in a brighter and more alert condition, even following anaesthesia just a short time before. We know that by using these agents, the anaesthetic experience for your pet is kept as short and as pleasant as possible.

Not surprisingly, as with most technological advances, these anaesthetics are more expensive than some of the older agents, and we recognise that for more routine operations and procedures, the extra cost appearing on your bill may not be particularly welcome. We hope you're reassured that we are committed to the very best anaesthetic practices.

ANAESTHETIC MONITORING - All our patients are monitored by a veterinary nurse until they are fully recovered.

POST OPERATIVELY - An appointment will be made for you to collect your pet and to discuss post operative care

Quite often plastic "lampshades" are given home with owners. This is probably the one part of the operation that owner's find most difficult. It is a plastic collar to prevent your pet licking the wound area. Some pets don't bother with the wound area; other pets just need a few seconds to pull out the stitches! This would require another operation to clean and repair the wound site. These collars are for use when required i.e. during the night, or when your pet is alone and not being supervised.

If stitches are used they are generally taken out after 10 days and an appointment will be made when you collect your pet. Your discharging nurse will give you full information on dressing care

Painkillers are given during the operation itself and last 24 hours, if you think your pet is in pain after this period then please give us a call

All anaesthetics carry some risk. We strive to reduce that risk to the smallest possible.