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## Your dog's Pre-Op Care



Your dog is coming in to us for a procedure. Please follow these instructions.

We understand that leaving your dog can be very worrying, so we are more than happy to answer any questions you may have. Just call us on 01442 833 198.

Please remember:

1. It is important that general anaesthesia or sedation is carried out on an empty stomach but that the animal isn't starved for too long. Please give your dog a snack or small meal (up to 1/3 of a normal portion) about midnight or just before you go to bed and **no food at all on the morning** of the procedure. There is no need to remove the water prior to your dog coming in. If your dog is 4 months old or less please give a small breakfast (1/3 normal portion) at 6am and nothing after that except water.
2. Please take your dog on a short walk on the lead on the morning of the procedure so he/she can go to the toilet.
3. In order to keep surgery as sterile as possible, please ensure your dog is clean on the day of his/her procedure. If you could bath him/her the night before we would really appreciate it.
4. If there has been any change in your dog's condition or symptoms since we last saw him/her, please let us know when you drop him/her off.
5. It will take about 10 minutes to admit your dog in the morning as we need to go through a consent form with you. Please ensure we have phone numbers where we can contact you throughout the day.
6. When we discharge your dog, we may recommend taking a "buster" collar to prevent interference with wounds or stitches. It is well worth having at home as there is nothing worse than hearing him/her licking the wound in the middle of the night and having no way of stopping him/her. Please let us know if you think your dog is likely to lick or chew his/her wound. We can also order in fitted medical shirts for animals likely to interfere with wounds on their trunk who hate buster collars. Simply measure from the back of their neck where the collar sits to the base of the tail (where the tail joins the bum), we can then order in the correct sized shirt ready for the day of the procedure.
7. It is a legal requirement to make sure all dogs are microchipped. If your dog is not already microchipped, it is a good time to get it done whilst he/she is under anaesthetic. The microchip is a permanent way of identifying a pet, ensuring that if your dog was ever lost or stolen there would be a good chance of him/her being returned to you. It is also necessary for the pet passport scheme, allowing your pets to go on holiday with you.
8. For some pets we may also recommend a pre-anaesthetic blood test and blood pressure check, which ensures your dog is well enough to cope with the general anaesthetic and sedative drugs.
9. Lungworm is becoming increasingly common and infection can cause an increased tendency to bleed during surgery. We recommend regular treatment to prevent lungworm. This is especially important in the 2-3 months prior to a surgical procedure. We can also blood test for lungworm to make sure your dog is not effected. Please contact us if you wish to discuss this further.
10. After your dog's procedure, we will ring you to arrange a discharge appointment so that we can go through all his/her post operative care.

All that's left to say is go home have a large mug of tea and try not to worry.

