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Safety Precautions for an Anesthetic Procedure

We'd like to take a moment to share with you some important steps we'll be taking to make sure your pet's stay with us is safe and comfortable. We'll start with a pre-anesthetic exam to evaluate vital signs and listen to the heart and lungs. We'll also measure the pulse, temperature, and weight.

Pre-Anesthetic Blood Screen

To determine how healthy and normal your pet's internal organs are functioning, we'll take a small blood sample and use our in-hospital blood machines to process results within about 20 minutes. We look to see if the kidney and liver values are normal and we check for infection or anemia.

The Benefits to you and your pet are:

- Peace of mind knowing your pet is healthy and will be safe and comfortable.
- Knowing we follow similar precautions a human hospital takes before an anesthetic procedure.
- While we hope the test results are normal, we sometimes discover abnormal results. Your doctor will then take additional precautions or may decide to postpone the procedure to address the new discovery.

IV Catheter and Fluids

This procedure involves setting an IV catheter and administering fluid therapy before and during the procedure. This step stabilizes the blood pressure and flushes the anesthetic agents from the kidneys and liver making it safer for your pet.

The Benefits to you and your pet are:

- Peace of mind knowing we're taking similar precautions a human hospital takes before an anesthetic procedure. This step will keep your pet well hydrated.
- Fluid therapy keeps your pet's blood pressure at normal levels, especially during longer procedures.
- We have an open port to give immediate emergency medication directly into the blood stream if an unexpected problem occurs.
- Your pet will recover more quickly, comfortably, and safely after the procedure is done.

Additional Monitoring & Safety

Monitoring vital signs like the heart rate, pulse, respiration and blood pressure are important safety steps. We use special monitoring equipment, just like a human hospital. The Pulse Oximeter and Doppler are attached to your pet and give us regular feedback on your pet's progress. We make adjustments to the anesthesia and oxygen to ensure your pet remains within normal, safe limits.

Maintaining your pet's temperature is also an important safety precaution. Anesthesia causes your pet's temperature to drop just like taking a cold bath or shower. When your pet's temperature drops, the heart rate and blood pressure drop. We use a heating pad that circulates warm water to counter this affect and ensure your pet stays warm.

Home Instructions for the Night Before

Feed your pet as normal up until 10 pm, then remove all food. Your pet will have enough nourishment to go without food the day of the procedure and enough time to digest the food eaten the night before. Food left in the stomach may cause an unnecessary complication— your pet may choke on vomit. Offer water as normal the night before and morning of the procedure. This plan we help your pet avoid dehydration which may cause an unnecessary complication.