



San Francisco Veterinary Specialists

What You Need to Know Before Your Pet Goes Into Surgery

Deposit: An itemized estimate will be provided to you at the time of drop off. 100% of the estimated cost will be required at this time. Should the final charges end up lower than the estimate, we will refund the difference at the time of discharge.

Drop-Off Times: Our drop-off period is 7:30-8:30 a.m. Admitting your pet early in the day ensures adequate time for surgical preparation. Please allow 10-15 minutes to check in. You'll need to sign a release form and leave daytime contact information.

Fasting: Please withhold food and water after 10 p.m. the evening before surgery. This is for your pet's safety the day of surgery. Food and water will be offered to your pet after the effects of anesthesia have completely dissipated.

Drug Fasting: In addition to withholding food and water, please withhold all drugs that your pet is taking. If you are concerned about pain management before and after surgery, be assured that your pet will receive drugs both pre- and post-operatively to help with pain and anxiety.

Communication: You will receive a call from Dr. Watt's surgical staff immediately following the procedure. If time permits, Dr. Watt will speak with you personally via phone at the end of the day. This may be at approximately 6:30 p.m.; however, Dr. Watt cannot guarantee an exact communication time due to possible emergencies that may arise throughout the day.

Procedure Time: Though we would like to give you a particular time when your pet will be operated on, we cannot guarantee an exact schedule because of possible emergencies that may arise throughout the day. We will call you immediately after the surgical procedure has been completed.

Overnight Stay: Your pet will stay overnight at our hospital and be under the care and supervision of our emergency staff. Dr. Watt will examine your pet the next morning, assess the level of recovery, and determine if another day of hospitalization is necessary. If you wish, you are welcome to visit your pet in the evening. Please call to make arrangements before you come to the hospital for visitation. We may discourage you from visiting if your pet needs some added rest after surgery. The best time for visitation is 8:00 p.m. or later.

Discharge: Dr. Watt's surgical staff will contact you early on the day of discharge to arrange a time for pick up. During discharge you will receive detailed instructions explaining the type of care that your pet will require at home during recovery. A member of the surgical staff will guide you through these instructions and answer any questions that you may have. Please allow 30 minutes for discharge. At this time, the doctor will speak with you in person about the outcome of your pet's surgery. Please note: Due to the possibility of emergencies, we cannot guarantee that Dr. Watt will be able to see you at discharge.