Anesthesia Preparation

Undergoing anesthesia bears some risk of complications. In order to minimize risk to your patient, we are always careful to make anesthesia choices appropriate for his or her age, breed, anticipated pain, body size, and surgery or procedure. It is equally important that your patient arrive to the clinic in optimal physical condition. Please follow these guidelines to minimize risk during a planned anesthesia:

Please withhold food after 10pm the night before the scheduled surgery or procedure.

Water may be offered until 2 hours prior to your drop-off time.

Preanesthetic blood testing is required on all patients over 7 years of age, and recommended in patients over 5 years of age. If not performed during the preoperative office visit, we can perform these tests the day of the procedure.

Specific directions regarding your patient should be followed as well;

- You may be asked to change medications we have prescribed for your patient. In some cases, we will ask for medications to be discontinued, or for the timing of a dose to be changed.
- If your patient is a diabetic, we may ask for feeding or insulin instructions to be altered in order to minimize risk of hypoglycemia.
- If your patient is very young or very small we may recommend different food withholding or drop-off procedures.

If you have concerns prior to a procedure, please bring them to our attention. While we can never eliminate risk, it is our goal to minimize risk as much as possible.

When a patient is anesthetized, normal reflexes such as gagging and swallowing are suppressed. For this reason, it is imperative that the stomach be empty of food and liquid at the time of a scheduled procedure. Accidental inhalation of stomach contents can cause life-threatening complications! Please inform us if your pet has accidentally consumed food after the specified time- it is much better to suffer the inconvenience of a rescheduled procedure than risk a serious complication!

WALKERSVILLE
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