



Anesthetic Procedures: What's on My Estimate and Why?

Our goal during anesthesia is to minimize risk, ensuring that your pet's procedure is safe and uneventful. We follow strict protocols and utilize monitoring equipment similar to a human hospital. Each item on your estimate is essential for a safe surgery & recovery.

“Pre-Op,” or Pre-Anesthetic Blood Screen: An in-house blood panel is run prior to the procedure to ensure internal organs are functioning properly. Primarily we are concerned with the liver and kidneys, as these organs process anesthesia. Even young animals have been found with abnormalities on these screens, so we recommend them strongly for EVERY animal.

IV Catheterization: Once a sedative is given, an intravenous catheter is placed in a front leg. This allows an emergency access port in case of any hint of a problem, and provides a route to give both injections and fluids during the procedure.

Fluids Intravenous: We administer fluids via the IV catheter during the procedure to keep the heart rate and blood pressure stable, to maintain adequate hydration, and to flush the anesthetic out of the patient's system faster, allowing for a quicker recovery.

Anesthesia: This includes a pre-operative sedative, an injection to induce anesthesia, then placing a tube in the airway and maintaining on inhaled (gas) anesthetic. For some senior pets, the veterinarian may recommend using a special injectable anesthetic, called **propofol**, to help speed post-anesthetic recovery.

EKG (Cardiac Monitoring): This device provides a visual and auditory monitor of your pet's heart rate. This does not take the place of the technician who will monitor the pet via stethoscope, but does provide a back-up system to alert to any changes.

Pulse Oximetry (Respiration Monitoring): This device (placed on either the tongue, ear, or foot) measures the amount of oxygen reaching that part of the body. This monitors how well the animal is breathing, ensuring that even if the patient is taking small breaths, enough oxygen is getting to the body.

Hospitalization: We hospitalize rather than simply day board because extensive post-operative monitoring is done following the procedure. The tech continuously monitors all aspects of the patient, including heart rate, color, breathing, and temperature, until the patient is clearly awake and moving on their own.

Post-Op Pain Meds: These are injectable pain medications administered during or immediately after the procedure to provide pain relief. The particular drug is determined by the doctor, depending on what procedure was done and the patient's needs.

Home Pain Meds: These are oral meds sent home with your pet to continue to provide pain relief post-operatively. Certain procedures (such as cat neuters) may not get home pain meds, as these are generally quick and the pet feels little discomfort. Other procedures (such as multiple dental extractions) may receive more than one type of pain med. Commonly used drugs include anti-inflammatories and morphine-type medications.

- All dentals are performed by Licensed Veterinary Technicians
- Your pet's blood pressure is monitored during each procedure