

Routine Admissions



We understand that it can be a worrying time when your pet is admitted to the surgery, so we have prepared this information to answer any questions you may have. If you would like to discuss anything further, then please do not hesitate to speak to any of our team on 01435 864422

Admission procedure

In-patients for routine procedures are admitted in the morning, usually between 0815 and 0845. We try to stagger appointment times so that there is plenty of time for admission. Please walk your dog beforehand to ensure empty bladder and bowels on arrival.

We ask that all dogs arrive wearing a secure collar and lead and that all cats or smaller pets are in a secure container.

You will be asked to read and sign a consent form which, as a legally binding document, must be signed by the owner or a representative over the age of 18 years. If you have any worries about the procedure, the cost or after care, now is the time to ask.

Your pet will then be checked before being given a pre-anaesthetic combination of sedative and painkiller.

It will help us if you can leave a telephone number on which you can be directly contacted during the day.

Fasting

It is extremely important that any patient undergoing sedation or general anaesthesia has an empty stomach, as regurgitation of food whilst drowsy or unconscious can be life threatening. We advise that food be given as normal until 9pm the night before and that drinking water be removed in the morning. Please ensure that all family members are aware of this so that no-one feeds breakfast by mistake. Cats may need to be kept indoors overnight to prevent hunting. It is not necessary to fast rabbits, guinea pigs and other small furries before routine operations.

Pre-anaesthetic blood tests

Your pet may benefit from a pre-anaesthetic blood test to enable us to detect any underlying problems with their health. The proper functioning of the liver and kidneys is especially important as these organs detoxify and eliminate sedatives and anaesthetics.

Test results may require us to adjust the dose or type of anaesthetic or even delay non-urgent surgery until after further treatment. This option is open to all owners and involves a single fasting blood sample. You may request this either on the day of admission or a few days before the operation.

Vaccinations

For the safety of your pet as well as others, we ask that all in-patients are fully vaccinated. Unless absolutely necessary, routine surgery will not be carried out within four weeks of vaccinations.

Recovery

All patients are carefully monitored throughout the operative and recovery periods. Please phone the surgery (**01435 864422**) after 2pm for a progress report. Most animals are ready to return home the same afternoon. Dressings will be applied only when necessary, as other than some initial licking, very few animals interfere with their sutures. However, if licking continues it may be necessary to use an Elizabethan collar.

Discharge

If at the time of discharge it is not possible to discuss any findings with the relevant Vet, we will make arrangements for a telephone discussion or further appointment. When you collect your pet, you will be given an information sheet detailing after care. Please read this before you leave, and ask the nurse if you are unsure of anything.

Your pet will have been offered food at the surgery, so a full meal may not be necessary the first evening. Increased thirst is a side-effect of anaesthetics, so give fluids as required, unless this provokes vomiting.

Cost

We are always happy to give estimates, although in some cases it is difficult to foresee the full extent of the problem, and therefore the overall cost.

In some cases, investigations may reveal that further procedures are necessary. This will obviously add to the cost and we will try to contact you beforehand if this occurs.

Many procedures will be covered by veterinary insurance, but always check with the Veterinary Surgeon or the insurance company. Please settle your account when you collect your pet, and if appropriate, provide us with a claim form so that we can submit the necessary documentation to your insurance company.

Please be aware that all anaesthetic and surgical procedures involve some risk to the animal. In young, fit and healthy animals this will be minimal, but may increase in older patients with underlying medical conditions and in very small pets such as rabbits and guinea pigs. However, be assured that we use modern anaesthetics with speedy recovery times and each patient is carefully assessed to ensure that risks are always kept to a minimum.

If you are concerned at any time about your pet's recovery or progress, do not hesitate to phone and ask for advice, on 01435 864422.

