



## Preparation for your Pet's Operation or Procedure

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY AND DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES.

- Please arrive between 8.30am and 8.45am, unless instructed otherwise.
- Your pet should be starved from **7pm** the night before admission. This does not apply to rabbits.
- Water should be not be taken away and should remain available until admission.
- Please ensure that your **cat** is shut inside the house the night before and is brought in to the surgery in a suitable carrier, clearly marked with your name.
- Please walk your **dog** on the lead before admission to allow it to empty its bowels. Please ensure they are clean and dry and has a secure collar and lead.

### Pre op blood tests (£38.00 VIP CLUB £34.20)

Screening your pets' blood *prior* to giving an anaesthetic is always a good idea! It can significantly reduce medical risk and provide baseline levels, which become part of your pet's medical records for future reference. If the tests are within the normal ranges excellent, we can proceed with confidence, knowing that anaesthetic risk is minimised. If the tests are not in the normal ranges then it may mean that we alter the drugs we use, the procedure or if necessary take other precautions to reduce the risk of complications.

### General Anaesthesia

The anaesthetics that we use here are similar, and in many cases the same, as are used in human medicine. They are gold standard in the veterinary field and the risk from receiving an anaesthetic remains very low in our patients.

One of the less welcome effects of anaesthetics and sedations is the reduction in blood pressure (called *hypotension*). The deeper or longer the anaesthetic the lower the blood pressure can go. When this happens the body is under increased stress to try and keep the blood at an adequate pressure. This makes the organs work much harder.

**Young, old** and **sick** animals are especially at risk from this, as their organs are already working at a high capacity.

If the blood pressure is reduced for a long period of time then the organs can become damaged, aggravating disease which has not yet become apparent. If severe hypotension occurs, the brain and heart can be damaged. To help prevent this happening we use intravenous fluid therapy.

### **Intravenous fluids** (£50-60.00 VIP CLUB £45-£54)

By placing your pet on intravenous fluids we are able to elevate their blood pressure to a relatively normal level. This reduces the stress to the heart and other major organs during anaesthesia. In an ideal world and as Gold Standard all anaesthetised patients would receive intravenous fluids as it is a preventative measure.

**Elderly, ill** and **young** patients find it harder to cope with hypotension. Not only does it increase their risk from general anaesthesia but it prolongs their recovery. If there is an underlying kidney problem, then the drop in blood pressure may cause kidney failure that cannot necessarily be repaired. If intravenous fluids are given the flow of blood to the kidneys is stronger, reducing risk of damage and helping flush the anaesthetic out of the system post operatively – making them feel better quickly.

Healthy adult animals are less at risk from hypotension; their bodies generally are able to cope with the extra stress of being under anaesthesia although it is difficult to predict what effect the anaesthetic will have on the animal's body. So while not essential, we would recommend that they are used where funds allow.

### **Canine Lungworm** (£15.00 VIP CLUB £13.50)

Due to an increasing number of diagnosed cases of *Angiostrongylus vasorum* (Canine Lungworm) and its potential to cause complications during surgery we recommend that all dogs are regularly treated with Advocate Spot On prior to surgery. **If your dog is not regularly treated with Advocate, we have a Lungworm Snap test available which can rule out this condition.** This test can be carried out on the day of the surgery.

### **Microchipping** (£20.00)

As of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 microchipping is a legal requirement for all dogs. We offer microchipping at a discount price for animals undergoing operations.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we may occasionally have to reschedule your pet's operation at short notice or request permission to transport your pet to our other branch.

Please telephone the appropriate surgery (**01444 242500 Burgess Hill / 01273 832968 Hurstpierpoint**) between 1.30 & 2.30pm to confirm the time of collection. In most cases your pet will be ready to come home between 4pm and 6pm.

You will be given full aftercare instructions at time of discharge. If your pet has to be hospitalised overnight, please ring the surgery on the above number between 10.00 and 10.30 am the next morning.

If you are unable to keep the above appointment, please contact either surgery as soon as possible. Failure to attend your appointment may incur a charge.

**Please note we will require full payment for your pet's treatment at the time of collection. We accept cash and credit cards.**