

Preparing your pet for surgery



Your pet is due to have a procedure at Hilltop Veterinary Centre that may involve a sedation or general anaesthetic. Please read the following carefully ahead of the appointment. Please do not hesitate to contact the clinic if you have any further questions.

While no procedure or anaesthetic is ever completely risk free, by following these instructions you can help us to make your pet's visit as safe and comfortable as possible.

1. If your pet has been unwell or their condition has changed or deteriorated before admission, please let us know.
2. If your pet is on any medication (except flea and worm products) please give these as normal unless you have been told not to. You might need to alter the times if they are given with food. If your pet is on insulin or blood pressure medicines please check whether to give these before the procedure.
3. Please **do not give your dog or cat any food after 11pm** the night before admission. This includes treats **DO NOT RESTRICT FOOD FOR RABBITS OR OTHER SMALL PETS.**
4. Please give your pet a **small snack** (a few treats or kibble biscuits, or a spoonful of wet food) **at 10pm the night before** their procedure.
5. Please **leave water available** for your pet until the morning unless you have been specifically advised not to.
6. Cats should be kept indoors with a litter tray the night before admission so that you can be sure they have not been out hunting overnight.
7. Please take your dog for a brief walk on the morning of admission to empty their bladder and bowel and ensure they arrive at the surgery mud-free, clean and dry.
8. Your pet will be admitted at a set appointment time with a nurse or vet who will be able to discuss any questions about the anaesthetic or procedure as well as give your pet a thorough check up. Please allow at least 20 minutes for this appointment and the paperwork. Please ask for an estimate of costs if one has not already been given to you at booking. Please **inform us of any medication or supplements** your pet is currently taking (whether from the vets or not) and when the last dose was given.
9. Pre anaesthetic bloods will be discussed at the time of admission. Ideally we would run routine blood tests on every anaesthetic patient to check their liver and kidney function etc. We strongly recommend patients over 8 years of age have this test to check for underlying unknown problems that can affect anaesthetic safety. These are offered at a reduced price of £55 when undergoing a procedure.
10. Before your pet returns home prepare a clean, comfortable area for them to recover in, including fresh, clean bedding for them to lie on. For many types of surgery a crate or small unfurnished room will be needed to prevent excess movement/jumping.
11. We will call you once your pet is in recovery to update you on your pet's progress and confirm arrangements for discharge. If the vets or nurses have any extra questions during your pet's stay with us they will need to call you so please make sure we have up-to-date contact numbers and keep phones handy in case we need to contact you urgently during your pet's procedure.
12. You will be booked a specific discharge appointment to go through the procedure and the aftercare that will be needed. Written care instructions will also be given to you at this appointment. Where appropriate you will be asked if you would like an Elizabethan collar (price included in neutering procedures) or a bodysuit (please ask for prices) to protect your pet's stitches.
13. Payment is required on collection (unless a direct insurance claim has been agreed in advance).
14. Before heading home please ensure you book your pet's post-op check ups. For many routine procedures these will be 2 days and 10 days after surgery.

Thank you for helping us keep your pet safe and happy at Hilltop!