



Wheat Ridge Veterinary Specialists

• EXPERTISE YOU CAN TRUST •

Things to do and remember before your pet's surgery:

Preoperative Instructions

1. Presurgical blood work

- prior to any type of general anesthesia and/or surgical procedure, we require a complete health profile and blood screen to evaluate your pet's immune system and organ function
- these tests are done to help identify any preexisting condition that might otherwise result in a complication during anesthesia or surgery
- we advise that this lab work be done one to two weeks prior to your pet's surgery but no more than 4 weeks before the procedure
- if we did not draw a blood sample (for these tests) from your pet at the time of your initial consultation, please stop by our hospital (prior to your pet's procedure) or see your regular veterinarian to have a blood sample taken so the tests can be completed

2. Diet adjustment

- most pets will require a reduction in caloric intake following their procedure to avoid unnecessary weight gain which can complicate or delay the rehabilitation process
- we often advise beginning your pet's "diet" prior to the surgical procedure

3. Confinement preparation

- most surgical procedures require a period of confinement and rehabilitation following the procedure to insure the best outcome; therefore, it is often helpful to prepare a confinement area for your pet **prior** to bringing them home from the surgery
- along these lines, it may be helpful to begin "crate training" your pet prior to their surgical procedure

4. Morning of surgery

- NO breakfast
- no food after 8 PM the previous evening
- water is fine in the morning and overnight
- IF your pet is taking medication, please make sure they get their morning meds (even if you have to give their meds with a small food treat)
- **EXCEPTION:** if your pet is receiving **aspirin** to help control inflammation prior to surgery, please **STOP** this medication at least **7 days** before the procedure
- please bring your pet to the hospital by 7:00 to 7:15 AM the day of surgery
- alternatively, you may drop your pet off the night before surgery

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