

Consumer Guide to Elective Surgery

This guide was put together to help you find the best fit between the veterinary practice and your expectations for the care of your pet.

Questions to Ask and Why to Ask Them:

1) Will my pet receive a complete physical examination prior to surgery?

This is important for a number of reasons. It is our first defense against performing surgery on an animal that may have infectious disease, a heart murmur, or be debilitated from parasites.

2) What safety precautions will be taken with my pet during surgery?

While most surgery is uneventful, emergencies sometimes arise. Early detection of impending problems greatly aids our ability to intervene and correct the problem. A breathing tube should be placed in all anesthetized animals. This keeps the airway open and allows for supplemental oxygen or gas anesthesia as needed. A heart and oxygen monitor allows the surgeon to keep track of heart rate and amount of oxygen in the blood. The practice should also have a "crash box" handy which contains emergency drugs and supplies. Ideally, your pet should have an IV catheter to allow immediate delivery of drugs to your pet's system.

3) What safety precautions will be taken with my pet after surgery?

Surgery patients lose body heat through anesthesia and the opening of body cavities. If the patient gets too cold the heart can be affected. Patient temperature should be monitored at regular intervals after surgery and supplemental heating should be provided as needed. Your pet's gum color, pulse, and respiration should also be monitored.

4) How will pain be controlled for my pet?

This is very important - surgery hurts! The anesthetic itself will not provide pain control. Pain medicine should be given by injection before your pet wakes up and oral pain medication should be offered.

5) Will I receive written post-surgical care instructions for my pet?

Aftercare of surgical patients is very important for proper healing. The hospital should provide written discharge instructions for your pet.

MAKE SURE YOU ARE COMFORTABLE WITH ALL THE ANSWERS THE PRACTICE PROVIDES BEFORE YOU TRUST YOUR PET'S LIFE TO THAT PRACTICE. WE WISH YOU GREAT SUCCESS IN FINDING A GOOD FIT FOR YOU AND YOUR PET!



Basic Information about Spaying or Neutering your pet

This brochure is designed to answer some basic questions you may have about your pet's surgery, to give you more questions to ask any prospective veterinary hospital, and to describe the practices we follow at The Ark Pet Hospital.



The Ark Pet Hospital
2723 Hillcrest Avenue
Antioch, CA 94509
Phone: 925-755-9426

At The Ark Pet Hospital we take every anesthetic procedure very seriously. The following describes our surgical procedures:

- 1) Your pet will receive a thorough physical examination by the surgeon prior to anesthesia.



- 2) Pre-anesthetic blood tests will be performed. This allows us to assess your pet's individual health status, adjust the anesthetic protocol if necessary, or even postpone the procedure if indicated.



- 3) All anesthetic patients will have an IV catheter placed in a leg vein; this allows immediate access to your pet's system for delivery of anesthetic and/or emergency drugs.



- 4) Every surgery includes a pre-operative tranquilizer, injectable and inhalant anesthetic agents, and injectable and oral pain medication.



- 5) Surgery is performed in a sterile surgical suite, using sterile instruments, and by a surgeon in sterile surgical attire.



- 6) Every patient recovering from anesthesia is monitored by trained veterinary nurses until they are completely alert and able to walk.



- 7) Every surgical patient goes home with written surgical instructions, indicating specific things to watch for at home.



- 8) Finally, surgical procedures include a brief follow-up examination with the nurse for suture removal.