



Surgery or Sedation: What To Expect

FOR PATIENT OWNERS

Thank you for leaving your pet in our care today. We know that it can be scary having a pet undergo any type of anesthesia. To help alleviate some of your anxiety, we want to provide you with a summary of what will happen today and when to expect an update.

Upon "checking in" a member of our CSR team will verbally go over our Anesthetic Release Form, you will receive a copy via email. We will then ask for all your pet's belongings to be removed and for you to place one of our collars on your pet. A member of our medical team will come up to confirm your pet's selected procedure and at that point we will bring your pet back with us.

FOR ALL SCHEDULED NON-EMERGENT PATIENTS HAVING SURGERY

You have been assigned a "check in" time between 8:00 am and 9:30 am. Your pet and possibly up to 6-10 other pets are being evaluated by your pet's assigned veterinary surgeon. During this time frame, expect that your pet will have a physical exam performed. Bloodwork (if not already performed) will be performed and then evaluated by our doctors. Should any concerns on physical examination or bloodwork be detected, please expect a call on one of the two numbers that you provided so that our veterinarians can discuss with you the best course of action. Not every abnormality requires action, but we want to maintain the highest level of communication, so that you can be well informed in your pet's health decisions. Should our concern be significant or require your involvement and we are not able to reach you on the phone numbers you provided, no surgery will be performed until someone in the family contacts the hospital.

The order in which surgeries are performed are often decided that day based on physical exam and laboratory findings. Many times older or debilitated patients may need to have their procedures performed first to give them the maximum amount of time for recovery. We require all patients to arrive in the morning fasted so that the veterinarian can evaluate them and if it is determined that a patient is unfit for surgery and anesthesia, the next surgery can be performed immediately. If your pet is assigned a later surgical time, please take comfort in knowing that they are given soft comfortable bedding and cared for by our nursing staff until it is their turn for surgery.

Once our surgical order has been determined, the first patient is started on anesthesia. This process generally involves administering medications, placing an intravenous catheter and administering gas anesthesia. Once the patient is appropriately relaxed, we begin preparing for surgery, such as shaving and disinfecting the surgical site. Then it is time for surgery. Once the surgery is complete, your pet will go into anesthetic recovery, where he or she continues to be monitored. Only after your pet is recovered from anesthesia will a staff member contact you to let you know that the surgery has been completed. At this time, your veterinary surgeon will call so that he or she may go over everything with you in detail when it is time for your pet to go home. You will then receive a call from a CSR member to officially set up a discharge time with you, book your pet's recheck appointment and settle your balance.

If you have not received a call by 5 pm, please call the hospital for an update. This is not to alarm you, generally if you have not received a call prior to this time period, it is possible that an early surgery has taken longer than expected. Today, no news is good news as we make every attempt to contact you or your family immediately should we have an urgent concern.

FOR DROP-OFF PATIENTS FOR SEDATION

Your pet will be sedated and have the discussed procedures performed during a blocked-off time period or a time discussed with you and the veterinarian. Sedation may take a varying amount of time to take effect, have the specified procedure performed, and for your pet to wake up from the sedative. We will call you with an update and time frame in which your pet can be picked up if it was not determined already at the time of the drop-off. We advise you feed only half of their normal meal that night and wait 30 minutes, if your pet is able to hold down their food you can proceed to feed the rest of the normal dinner. Please note sedation can cause your pet to be a bit lethargic, sleepy, not have the best appetite or any appetite that night and occasionally can cause some minor stomach issues such as loose stool or nausea. These symptoms should subside as the night goes on and your pet should be fully back to normal by the next day. If at any point you feel concerned please give our office a call.

EMERGENCY ANESTHESIA/SEDATION PATIENTS

The veterinarian will be in contact with you as soon as possible, once your pet is stabilized or as discussed by the veterinarian. We will make every attempt to contact you if decisions of your pet's health and course of action need to be made by you and your family.

Thank you and we will be in touch shortly!
Rockaway Animal Hospital