

Surgery at SAH

We know that taking your pet to have surgery can be stressful. At Stafford Animal Hospital, we do our best to make this experience as pain free and stress free as possible for you and your animal. We hope that you find this information useful and that it will make you feel comfortable about the care your dog or cat will receive while staying with us. Don't hesitate to ask us if you have any concerns, or if you would like to visit our surgery and recovery suite.

You will first check-in at our reception desk and fill out some paperwork. You will sign the anesthesia consent form and we will explain which bloodwork is recommended for your pet. We will make sure that we have a current phone number where we can reach you. We will ask you if your pet has any medical issues or if he/she is on any medication. We will also confirm with you that he/she was not fed that morning and that we are doing the right surgical procedure.

Your pet will be staying in a quiet area in the treatment room before and after the surgery. Dr. Pearson will do a full physical exam before the surgery. She will check your pet's heart, lungs, temperature and make sure he/she is healthy for the procedure. After we run the pre-anesthetic bloodwork, Dr. Pearson will choose the anesthetic protocol the most adapted to your pet.

Your pet will first receive a pre-medication injection, in order to make him/her relax before the anesthesia. Once your pet is mildly sedated, we will shave the surgical site and get his/her front leg ready for the IV anesthetic injection. Some pets will also need IV fluids, depending on their health, pre-existing conditions, and expected length of the surgery.

Your pet will then be taken to the Operating Room where he/she will get the anesthetic injection that will make her fall asleep. An endotracheal tube will be placed in his/her trachea. The tube enables us to provide the right amount of oxygen and anesthetic gas during the surgery.

During the surgery, your pet's vitals will be monitored thoroughly and written down on an anesthesia monitoring sheet. We will check his/her heartbeat, breathing, temperature, and amount of oxygen in the blood. Your pet will also receive an injection of antibiotics and an injection of pain killer.

After the surgery, your pet will go back to the recovery/treatment area. He/she will be kept warm and closely watched until he/she is fully awake. We like to keep our surgery patient in the treatment area for a few hours after the procedure to make sure that he/she has a good and calm recovery.

We will call you as soon as your pet is awake, and we will let you know when you can pick him/her up. We will send you home with detailed post-operative instructions. We will go through these instructions with you. Don't hesitate to ask us if you have any questions, we are here to help you.