



Newsletter

Endell Veterinary Group, 49 Endless Street, Salisbury, SP1 3UH • 01722 333291

Spring 2013

What happens when your pet comes in for an operation?



Most pet owners will have experienced at least one of their pets needing to have a general anaesthetic. This may have been for a routine neutering surgery, dental work, stitching a wound or a more major operation. However routine, or otherwise, it can be a concerning experience seeing your pet led off 'out the back'. This is a short guide to what happens to your pet on the day.

For most of the more routine procedures your pet will only need to be with us for the day. We ask you to bring them in having had no food since the night before (water is fine) as we want to minimise the risk of them vomiting while under the anaesthetic. The exceptions to this are rabbits and other small pets. This is because they do not vomit and they have fast metabolisms which need a steady diet to keep their guts moving properly. For these special cases we ask you to bring a 'packed lunch' of their favourite food in with them so we can encourage them to eat both before and as soon as possible after the procedure.

Your pet will be checked over and admitted by either a vet or a qualified nurse. They may then have a blood sample taken to check that there are no signs of any problems which might affect their ability to cope with the anaesthetic. They will then be allowed to settle into their kennel for a short while before having an injection of a mild sedative. This pre-medication helps relax them and means that a lower dose of general anaesthetic can be used. It also gives them a smoother recovery as they wake up. At this point if the procedure is likely to be painful your pet will also receive a pain killing injection as these work much better if they are on board in advance and also help keep anaesthetic levels low.

Your pet will then have a cannula placed in a vein (usually in a front leg) so that we can safely give the anaesthetic agent and also have quick access to give other medications should your pet need them. Your pet will have a clipped patch of fur where the cannula is placed so that we can sterilise the area before inserting the cannula.

Once asleep a tube is placed in their throat, just as in humans, and the anaesthetic is maintained via a mixture of gas and oxygen. At Endell Veterinary Group we use Sevoflurane which is one of the most

modern anaesthetic gases, giving greater control of depth of anaesthesia and is particularly useful for our smaller patients. It is very similar to anaesthetics used in children.

All of our anaesthetics are monitored by qualified veterinary nurses or by student nurses enrolled on a suitable course and supervised by a qualified veterinary nurse or veterinary surgeon.

After the anaesthetic, once your pet is swallowing on their own, the tube will be removed and they will be transferred back to their own kennel. Here, the In Kennel nurse, will have their bed all ready with a heat mat and blankets and will be there to make sure they continue to come round from the anaesthetic safely.

Once back on their feet your pet will be offered a light meal, not all will feel like eating so soon after an anaesthetic, so we suggest you also offer a light meal once they are home.

Each procedure will need different post-operative care and one of the nurses will go through all this with you when you collect your pet. They are likely to be drowsy at home that evening or occasionally may be unsettled and restless as they can find the experience of anaesthesia disorientating and may vocalise more than normal. If you have any concerns about your pet after an anaesthetic, do call us, there is always both a vet and nurse on the premises who can offer advice over the phone or a consultation if needed.

You can always ask to see our facilities and as long as there is no surgery happening at the time, one of our nurses will be happy to show you around. Alternatively check out the TV screen in reception which shows footage of animals being treated here.

Spring Wildlife

As we move into spring and summer baby birds and other wildlife are increasing in numbers. At this time of year the Practice starts to see an influx of young wildlife brought in by members of the public.

Although done with the best of intentions, picking up a baby bird is not always the most appropriate course of action. Fledgling birds leave the nest just before they can fly and are fed by their parents on the ground. The parents of a baby bird will often be close by, waiting for you to leave before they reappear. You won't do any harm by moving a baby bird from an exposed area to some nearby cover, but don't take them any distance or the parents will be unable to find them. The same applies to fox cubs who are often out in the open at an early age with parents close by.

Although local wildlife charities do a great job, the best chance of survival for most of these young animals is staying in their natural environment and being raised by their parents.



Tick Control



Spring and autumn are peak times for ticks. Ticks in the UK can carry Lyme disease which is transmissible to both dogs and humans. In Europe ticks can carry a larger number of diseases.

We recommend using Advocate® monthly throughout the year to prevent your pet bringing fleas or ticks into the house. If your dog is likely to come into contact with higher numbers of ticks, eg: you do a lot of walking where they get to run through undergrowth, you may need to add in a tick repellent as well.

One solution for both cats and dogs is the Seresto® Collar. Once fitted snugly against the skin, this collar both repels and kills ticks and lasts up to eight months.

Another option **for dogs only** is adding in Advantix® which is a good tick repellent and also effective against sand flies for those dogs travelling abroad.

Please be very careful around cats with products which state that they are for dogs, as many of them contain a chemical which is toxic to cats. Never apply a flea or tick product for dogs to a cat and if your cat is your dog's best friend take care that they aren't rubbing or licking any of the product off the dog for the first twenty-four hours.



Discounted Clinic for Pensioners

From Tuesday to Thursday, the small animal department runs a discounted clinic for pensioners between 10am and 3.45pm. Any clients who are pensioners will qualify for a 10% discount (some conditions apply) on consultations, vaccinations and flea and worm medication. However, you will have to prove you are a pensioner on your first visit - you don't always look your age!

For more information or to book an appointment, please telephone us on:

01722-333291



Are You A Member of Our Pet Health Plan Club Yet?

The Endell Veterinary Group Pet Health Plan offers an easy, cost effective way to meet your pet's essential healthcare needs. We believe that preventative health care is an important part of pet ownership; things like vaccines and parasite control are important factors in helping your pet have a long and healthy life. As well as vaccines, wormers and flea control, the plan provides a six-monthly check up to catch any problems early, something that becomes increasingly important as your pet ages. This is not the same as pet insurance but allows you to save money and spread the cost of preventative health care for your pet and works well in conjunction with a good insurance policy.

What's included?

For a regular monthly fee your pet receives:

- Twice yearly health assessments
- Full routine annual vaccination
- Full worming program for cats and dogs for effective year round protection against round and tape worm (includes lungworm)
- All year round flea control for cats and dogs
- Parasite program for rabbits for *E cuniculi*
- Annual health screen blood test
- Insurance claim forms completed free of charge

In addition, you get discounts on the following:

- Routine consultations
- Neutering
- Microchips
- Dental treatments
- Additional vaccinations
- Royal Canin and Hill's food



Ordering Food and Medications

We have changed the way we order your pets' medications and food. We have found that holding a lot of stock means that many products go out of date on the shelf. To try and combat this we are ordering most medicines and foods from our wholesaler only as required. In order to save yourself a wasted journey in to the practice, we ask that you please telephone us in advance to give us 48 hours' notice to order your food or medication.



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Endell Veterinary Group Small Animal



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