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Registered in Wales,
Company No. 14437107
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Your pet's procedure

BEFORE THE DAY

- **Food and treats**: on the night before the procedure, please give your pet an evening meal (even if they are normally only fed in the morning) and then **withhold all food and treats from midnight onwards**.

  Exceptions to the rule are pets who are:

  - Young/very small
  - Diabetic, unwell or very old
  - Brachycephalic breeds such as Bulldogs
  - Rabbits, guinea pigs, other small mammals and exotic species

  If your dog or cat is **younger than 5 months old or less than 2kg** bodyweight, we suggest that you give them a small meal at 7am on the morning of their procedure.

  Rabbits, guinea pigs and other small mammals should be **fed normally** (do not starve). Please bring some of their favourite food (something tasty and tempting eg vegetables) and some of their usual bedding.

  If your pet is **unwell, very old, diabetic or brachycephalic**, please speak to us in advance and we will give you a personalised plan which may include a small meal the morning of the procedure (and medication plan if needed).

- **Water:** keep water available at all times.
- **Medications:** if you are currently administering any medications, please speak to us about your pet's medication for the day of the procedure.
- **Illness:** if your pet has been unwell or their condition has changed/deteriorated before admission, please tell us.
- **Lungworm treatment (for dogs only):** we advise that all dogs are covered for lungworm with appropriate treatment given ideally at least 2 weeks prior to a surgical procedure. This is because lungworm can affect blood clotting and therefore increase the risks of surgery. Please speak to us in advance of your pet's procedure if you have any questions about lungworm treatment, and be aware that not all wormers include lungworm cover.
- **Cleanliness:** please ensure your pet is clean and dry. This will reduce the risk of wound infection for your pet.
- **Interference protection:** we have recovery cones, or body suits (at additional cost) available at the practice to help to protect your pet's wound from interference after a surgical procedure. If you would prefer to source your own, please remember to have this ready to bring with your pet on the day of the surgery.
- **Dietary requirements:** if your pet has any specific dietary requirements or preferences, please inform us and remember to bring some of their usual food for us to offer them after their procedure. Otherwise, we will offer them a gentle G.I. diet. Please be aware that for safety and hygiene reasons, we do not accept raw food into the practice.
- **Other considerations:**
  - **Dogs:** please take your dog for a walk on the morning of admission to ensure they have had the chance to go to the toilet (both urine and faeces).
  - **Cats:** should be kept indoors with a litter tray the night before admission so that you can be sure that they don't eat overnight outdoors and that you are able to catch them in the morning.

ON THE DAY

An admission appointment will be made for the morning of your pet's procedure: this is usually between 8.30am and 9.30am with a vet or a nurse. Please allow yourself 15-30 minutes for this.

Please feel free to call us prior to your appointment if you have any questions or concerns. Our team is here to support you and your pet. If you are unable to attend your admission appointment, please let us know as soon as you can so that we can offer your slot to another patient.

(PTO →)

ADMISSION APPOINTMENT

- Here we will discuss the procedure and complete a consent form. The consent form must be signed by a person over the age of 18 who is either the pet's owner or the pet owner's representative.
- We need to be able to contact you during the time your pet is with us. Please make sure contact details are up to date and provide alternative contact telephone numbers if needed.
- We can discuss any further treatment or tests your pet may require, such as clipping claws, emptying anal glands, removal of matts, microchip, vaccinations etc.
- We will discuss whether to perform pre-anaesthetic blood tests depending on age, health, or any underlying conditions. We particularly recommend this for older patients over 8 years. Pre-anaesthetic bloods are offered at a reduced price to normal blood tests and can be performed in-house here on the morning of the surgery.
- If you have noticed any signs of ill health or deterioration in your pet, it is important that you mention this to us prior to the procedure. Please also be sure to let us know if your pet has had any previous reactions to medications or anaesthetic. We may choose alternative drugs or combinations to better suit your pet.
- Your pet will be weighed, will undergo a clinical exam and heart check, and will be taken to a comfortable bed to settle. We have separate wards for dogs, cats and exotics to help to minimise any stress to our patients.
- If you are bringing in more than one pet and there is any similarity in appearance between them, please consider how you can help us to identify between them (eg separate labelled carriers, collars, distinguishable markings)
- Any questions or concerns you may have will be answered during the appointment.

PROCEDURE

- Shortly before the procedure, your pet will be given a pre-medication injection.
- Some areas of your pet will be shaved, usually the neck and/or leg/legs. For an ultrasound scan, the area shaved will reflect the area being assessed.
- An intravenous (IV) catheter will be placed to enable any medications/fluids to be administered with ease.
- Pain relief is important, and will be given to your pet before, during and after the procedure as required.
- When ready, our team will induce the anaesthetic and the procedure will be carried out.
- Your pet will be monitored constantly throughout the procedure by our team. We will also use our specialised equipment to help with monitoring patients and to keep them warm during their anaesthetic.
- Please be aware that our student vets and veterinary nurses may perform some surgeries or procedures, where appropriate. If you do not wish to give permission for this, please let us know at the admission appointment.

RECOVERY

- Your pet will continue to be monitored by our nurses during their recovery and placed back into a comfortable warm bed.
- We will usually ask for you to ring the practice at around 2pm for an update about your pet and to arrange a time for collection, once they are awake. Collection is usually between 3pm and 6pm depending on the procedure and how well your pet is recovering after their anaesthetic, some pets take a little longer than others.
- Prior to your discharge appointment, your pet will be offered a light meal and the opportunity to go to the toilet.

DISCHARGE APPOINTMENT

- Your discharge appointment will be carried out by one of our nurses or vets, who will discuss the procedure, recovery, and ongoing care of your pet, and answer any questions or concerns you may have.
- We will arrange a post-operative appointment so that we can assess the progress of your pet's recovery.
- To assist in your pet's recovery, we stock recovery cones and body suits in a range of sizes. Please ask if you feel your pet would benefit from either option and we can discuss and fit.
- Please be aware that your pet may be drowsy after the anaesthetic, so please arrange suitable transport home.

Our team understands that surgery can be an anxious time and we are here to support you and your pet before, during and after the surgery. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the practice on: 01267 614400 or carmarthen@serenvets.co.uk. *(Should you need any urgent advice when the practice is closed, our normal phoneline will automatically divert to our Out Of Hours provider, MiNightVet in Carmarthen.)*