

# Sunrise Veterinary Services

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Reedsburg, WI 53959  
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## Client Information:

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Patient Information:

Patient's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dog \_\_\_ or Cat \_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Male \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_ Neutered: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

## What You Should Know About Anesthesia (Pre-Op Info)

As is the case for us, our four-legged friends may require anesthesia as part of a surgery or procedure. Puppies/kittens receive anesthesia when they are spayed/neutered, and most pets receive anesthesia at least once more during their lifetimes.

General anesthesia is achieved by administering drugs that suppress your pet's nervous system. During general anesthesia, your animal is in an unconscious state, so he/she is unable to move and doesn't feel any pain. Anesthesia can also be administered locally, to numb a specific area or part of the body.

### **How risky is anesthesia for your dog/cat?**

There are always risks when any anesthetic agent is administered to a patient, regardless of the length of time the patient is anesthetized. In fact, it is estimated that approximately 1 in 100,000 animals will have some sort of reaction to an anesthetic agent. Reactions can range from mild to severe and include a wide variety of symptoms, such as swelling at the injection site to more serious outcomes such as anaphylactic shock or death. While these statistics seem alarming, your pet is just as much at risk getting into the car to go to the veterinary hospital for the anesthetic event. The good news is there are many things you can do to reduce your companion's risk!

Fasting for several hours prior to anesthesia, as directed by your veterinarian, is important to reduce your pet's risk. If your pet has not fasted prior to anesthesia, he/she could vomit and possibly aspirate food or fluid into his/her lungs, even with intubation (a tube to keep the airway open). This could potentially result in a condition called aspiration pneumonia, which can be life-threatening.

### **How to minimize the risks of anesthesia on your dog/cat:**

Make sure your veterinarian knows your pet's complete history before the anesthetic event. Your veterinarian will perform a pre-surgical examination and possible diagnostic tests that help identify any underlying conditions that should be addressed before your companion undergoes anesthesia.

Recommended diagnostic tests usually include:

- Chemistry tests to evaluate kidney, liver, and pancreatic function, as well as sugar levels.
- A complete blood count (CBC) to rule out blood-related conditions.
- Electrolyte tests to ensure your dog isn't dehydrated or suffering from an electrolyte imbalance.

Additional tests may be added on an individual basis. Your veterinarian will recommend the right thing for your best friend.



### **How your dog/cat is monitored during anesthesia:**

Our clinic provides multiple safeguards to help reduce your pet's risk during anesthesia.

They include:

- A technician is present during the anesthetic event to monitor your pet's vital signs and to help adjust anesthetic levels, under the direction of the veterinarian.
- A heart rate monitor counts your pet's heartbeats per minute. Anesthesia and other factors, such as surgery itself, can affect heart rate.
- Pulse oximetry may be used to monitor the amount of oxygen in your dog's blood and her pulse rate.
- Respirations are counted every 3-5 minutes.

Following the anesthetic procedure, a technician will continue to monitor your pet's vitals as they recover. We do not leave their side until they are fully awake and reflexes such as swallowing, blinking, and limb movement return. Additional monitoring will be performed throughout their stay with us.

### **How soon after anesthesia will your pet be back to normal?**

Recent improvements in anesthetic agents allow for a quick recovery, and your pet should almost be back to normal when you pick them up after the anesthetic event. They may seem more tired than normal when going home. Side effects following anesthesia may include:

- Nausea
- Drowsiness
- Incoordination
- Lethargy

Make sure you follow all go-home instructions for your dog, including feeding instructions.

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I have read this handout and fully understand the risk of anesthesia. My companion has received a pre-surgical exam from the veterinarian. \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature)

Sunrise Vet *strongly recommends* all pets be current on their monthly flea preventative prior to their surgical appointment. For the protection of your pet and all other patients, please administer your prevention at least 24 hours prior to your scheduled surgery. \_\_\_\_\_ (initials).

For you and your cat's safety, all cats must be restrained in a kennel when they go home from the clinic. If you do not have access to a kennel we have a cardboard kennel for \$6 that you can purchase. \_\_\_\_\_

Blood work is **required if pet is over 5** years of age.

If your pet is **less than 5** years old, choose one of the following options...

- I would like my pet to have pre-anesthetic blood work the morning of surgery \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)
- I would like to decline blood work today for my pet under 5 years of age, but will discuss it at check-in the day of surgery if I change my mind. \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)