



ORCHARD VETERINARY GROUP

ANAESTHETIC INFORMATION

What is an anesthetic?

An anaesthetic is required in order to allow procedures such as dentistry, x-rays and surgery to be performed satisfactorily with the minimum of stress and discomfort to your pet.

It is important to realise that all anaesthetics and sedatives involve some degree of risk, however slight. At Orchard Veterinary Group we minimise these risks by using carefully balanced drug combinations tailored to the individual requirements of each animal and by close monitoring techniques. At all times a Veterinary Nurse and Veterinary Surgeon are in attendance to observe the patient and they are assisted by automatic instruments such as:

Pulse oximeter - this measures the amount of oxygen in the blood stream

ECG - This monitors the heart electronically

Respiratory monitor - to measure breathing

The Procedure on the day

1/ Dogs and cats - withhold food from 6.00 p.m. the evening prior to admission (cats will have to be kept indoors overnight to ensure they have not eaten). Allow dogs to exercise in the morning in order to empty bladder and bowel.

2/ Small pets such as rabbits, guinea pigs, ferrets and so forth - **do not withhold food**, their high metabolic rates mean this could be quite risky. A small amount of food should be brought to the clinic with a small pet so that feeding can recommence as soon as possible after recovery. For reasons of hygiene please keep bedding material to a minimum.

In all cases water should be available right up to the time of admission.

Admission will take roughly 15 minutes and are done by a Veterinary Nurse between 8.30 and 9.00 am. You will be asked some brief but important questions concerning your pet, the procedure to be carried out and contact details. It is vital that we are able to contact you so if you are away from the telephone even for a short period please let us know. Finally you will be asked to sign a form of consent giving permission to give an anaesthetic or sedative and to carry out the procedure requested.

Shortly after admission a premedicant and a pain killer (where appropriate) is given. This helps your pet settle, reduces the anaesthetic dose and reduces anxiety and pain during recovery and for 24 hours thereafter. The anaesthetic is injected approximately half an hour later, usually into a vein in the front leg which will be shaved to allow this. Once the patient is asleep a soft tube is inserted into the windpipe to give continuous oxygen and anaesthetic throughout the procedure.

The principal induction anaesthetic we use in dogs and cats is called PROPOFOL; the maintenance agent ("gas") used is ISOFLUORANE. The superiority of this anaesthetic combination gives a rapid recovery and reduces stress allowing a quicker return home and return to appetite.

Blood testing

We advise that an animal has a blood test prior to an anaesthetic or sedative in order to highlight problems not always visible during a normal examination. The blood is analysed here at the clinic, with results available within 15 minutes of sampling and the cost varies depending on which tests are done. Please let us know on the day whether you would like us to carry out a blood test for extra reassurance.

After the procedure

Collection is usually around 4.00 p.m. but times can be varied to suit. You will need transport as your pet will be unable to walk any distance. Please telephone prior to coming in to make sure your pet is ready. At that time the Veterinary Surgeon or Nurse will speak to you about aftercare. Please listen carefully to the directions given and if you have any questions don't hesitate to ask them at any stage.

Telephone Glastonbury (01458) 832972 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

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