

List of items included in your pet's surgery and anesthesia at Whole Pet Veterinary Care

Because we feel **safety and pain control should not be optional**, they are included in all neuter, all spay and all dental packages. Full anesthesia monitoring is included in all anesthetic charges.

- IV catheter***
Direct access to vein to supply IV fluids and any needed pain medication or emergency medications for immediate effect. Medications or fluids given under the skin (SQ) can take too long to absorb.

- IV fluids*** *IV catheter and IV fluids are not automatically included in feline neuters.
Fluids are given to maintain or enhance hydration in patients under anesthesia and who have been fasted. IV fluids help maintain blood pressure and results in good blood supply to all organs to protect them from any damage during anesthesia.

- Dedicated technician to monitor your pet**
There will always be a skilled staff member whose sole job is to monitor and care for your pet while under anesthesia. They will not leave your pet until they are awake and lifting their head and looking at us. After that time your pet will receive continued observation until discharge into your care. We will only discharge your pet to you when their vital signs are within normal ranges.

The technician will MONITOR:

- Body temperature**
Lower body temperature can lead to excessive anesthetic depth. We monitor temperature so that your pet can receive immediate warming treatment and prevent hypothermia (low body temp).

- Blood oxygen level**
Oxygen levels in the blood should be 97-100% while your pet is under anesthesia to make sure all the organs, especially the brain, are being nourished. A drop in oxygen will trigger immediate adjustments to anesthesia for optimal health and recovery.

- ECG**
(Electrocardiogram) is an electric tracing of the heart beat. This allows monitoring of the heart beat and immediate intervention to correct slow or irregular heartbeats with medications.

- Blood pressure**
Adequate blood pressure is essential to protect all organs. We are continuously monitoring the blood pressure and can use fluids and medication to increase the pressure when needed. In addition, a lowering of blood pressure can indicate too much anesthetic gas and adjustments can be made. Blood pressure is a great measure of how well your pet's heart is functioning and we always maintain it at safe levels.

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- **CO2 levels in breath**
If your pet's carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels become too high during anesthesia that means your pet is not inflating their lungs and moving oxygen in and CO₂ out as well as they should. If a rising CO₂ level is seen it allows the anesthetist to assist your pet with breathing and keep the organs fed with oxygen, and cleared of CO₂.
- **Respiratory rate**
A rise in respiratory rate may indicate your pet feels pain and appropriate adjustments to pain medication and anesthesia may be applied. A reduction in respiratory rate may mean your pet is becoming too deep under anesthesia and indicates a need to adjust to a lighter plane of anesthesia.

For surgical procedures spay, and neuter and for tooth extractions:

- **Local anesthetic block**
Local numbing is infused at the location of the surgical incision or extraction. This prevents your pet from feeling the pain of the incision or extraction. The numbing lasts for about 4-6 hours.
- **Pain medication injections**
Up to 2 different medications, given before the surgery so that they are “on board” before any surgical incision is made. Studies prove that it is better to prevent pain than only treat it later.
- **Pain medication to go home**
Pain meds to go home are always included, because we know our pets feel pain and we also know they will recover faster if they feel less pain.
- **Sterile surgical pack and instruments**
All pets undergoing surgery will have their own sterile surgical pack opened to ensure a safe, clean operation. In addition we use sterile gowns and gloves for all surgeries performed in our surgical suite. All medical staff present in the surgical suite wear caps and masks.
- **Patient warming**
Warming is taken seriously, as being cold can cause your pet to become too deep under anesthesia. We use a heated surgical table, and during surgical prep, pets are on a warm water circulating blanket. All pets wear warm booties while under anesthesia.
- **E-collar included**
All canine neuter patients go home with an E-collar. We have learned that they need it, no matter what, so that is included in the price of the surgery. Looking nerdy for a few days promotes super recoveries and fewer follow-up visits!