

## **SURGICAL INFORMATION PACKET**

Dear Client,

Your pet has been scheduled for an upcoming surgery. In our attempt to assist our clients, we have put this packet together to ensure that the surgery day is as easy and stress-free as possible.

In addition to this letter, you will find that the following information has been enclosed. Please initial below that you have received these forms:

1. **PRE-SURGICAL REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial and bring in the day of surgery)
2. **SURGICAL INFORMATION FORM:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial and bring in the day of surgery)

Please carefully read all enclosed information and initial each page. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us. On the day of your pet's surgery, we require you to review and sign an Authorization/Estimate Form.

*We require an up to date phone number in order to discuss your pet's surgery.*

- Withhold all food and treats after 9:00 PM.**
- Withhold water after 12:00 AM. (If your pet is on heart medication, water may be left down)**
- If you are currently administering any medications, vitamins and/or injections, withhold the morning doses unless otherwise instructed by the doctor.**

Please make arrangements for your pet to be dropped off the morning of scheduled surgery no later than 8:30 AM. At time of drop-off, our team will be happy to answer any questions or concerns and collect the completed information forms. If any questions arise, the doctor may contact you at the number on the Authorization Form you will complete the morning of surgery.

You are welcome to checkup on your pet's status, however, we request that you allow plenty of time for your pet's procedure to be done. At this time, we will be able to give you an idea when your pet may be discharged. When you arrive to take your pet home the front desk staff will escort you to an exam room where a veterinary nurse will go over discharge orders verbally and give you a written copy. If you do not understand any of the instructions we encourage you to ask them to go over them again.

We hope surgery day will be a pleasant experience. Remember, our team knows surgery can be an anxious time and we are always available to answer all questions concerning then upcoming procedure.

We look forward to serving you and your pet on the upcoming surgery day and years to come.

## **SURGICAL INFORMATION FORM**

### **Anesthetic Procedures & Risks:**

We use a combination of pre-anesthetic medications/injectables and/or inhalant anesthetics to achieve optimum levels of anesthesia that are safe for your pet.

**For most procedures**, your pet is anesthetized and then intubated (insertion of a tube into the trachea). This will ensure that your pet is able to receive oxygen at all times, and prevents aspiration of any fluids into the lungs.

**For procedures involving exotic pets**, an injectable anesthetic is given and patient is maintained with a gas anesthetic via oxygen mask.

### **Monitoring and Pain Management:**

Monitoring of patients during anesthesia is done in two ways. First, a veterinary nurse is with your pet continuously from the beginning of anesthesia to recovery. Second, we have a computerized monitor that records heart rate, pulse rate, oxygen levels, and respiration. We also record their core temperature throughout the procedure.

Southside Veterinary Hospital strongly believes in compassionate and quality medical care for our patients. As a result, all surgery patients will receive pain management as necessary before, during and after surgery. Additionally, pain medication may be prescribed for use at home. Additional information will be given at the time of discharge.

### **Intravenous Catheterization & Fluids:**

We require all patients to have an IV catheter and use of IV fluids during all anesthetic procedures. This allows us to keep the patient hydrated during surgery and aids in a quicker recovery from anesthesia. It also allows for administration of life-saving medications. This is the safest method in the event of an emergency.

### **Potential Surgical Complications**

- 1. Canine and Feline Spay:** Bleeding, Infection, Recurrent Heat, Urinary Incontinence, Suture Reaction
- 2. Canine and Feline Neuter:** Bleeding, Infection, Testicular Swelling, Suture Reaction
- 3. Tumor/Lump Removal:** Bleeding, Infection, Swelling and Drainage, Suture Reaction

**It is important that you understand that there is always a risk of anesthetic and surgical complications anytime these procedures are performed. We strive to take the highest quality care of your pet and take all proper precautions in order to avoid potential health problems.**

Client Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

## **PRE-SURGICAL REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION**

At Southside Veterinary Hospital, our greatest concern is the well-being of your pet. Before putting your pet under anesthesia, we require a full physical examination that includes:

### **1. Pre-Surgical Exam:**

- a. This is required at least one week prior to surgery.
- b. Pre-anesthetic bloodwork and EKG will be performed during this exam so that we can ensure your pet's health is in optimal condition prior to anesthesia.
- c. In the event your pet's diagnostics come back abnormal, and Dr. Kilpatrick feels that surgery/anesthesia is not suitable, he will then discuss further options with you.

### **2. Pre-Anesthetic Bloodwork:**

- a. CBC: checks for anemia, infections, clotting disorders and other potential health complications.
- b. Comprehensive Chemistry: checks kidneys, liver, blood sugar, dehydration and electrolytes.

### **3. Electrocardiogram:**

- a. Measures the electrical activity of the heartbeat.
- b. Detects arrhythmia (irregular heartbeat) and other potentially life-threatening problems.

For **feline patients**, our feline owners can opt for a FeLV/FIV test. We highly recommend this test be performed on all feline patients at least once in their lives. Feline Leukemia and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (Feline AIDS) are viruses for which no cure exists. If your pet goes outside, we recommend administering the Feline Leukemia vaccine as well. Please ask questions if you would like to learn more about Feline Leukemia and Feline AIDS.

We realize surgery and anesthesia are scary for both the owner and the patient. Our goal is to make surgery day as safe and comfortable as possible for all involved. The physical examination, bloodwork and EKG are done prior to any surgical procedure to minimize anesthetic and surgical risks and maximize your pet's safety.

If you have any questions about the scheduled procedure, please do not hesitate to contact us with those concerns.

Client Initials: \_\_\_\_\_