

Front Range Animal Hospital  
487 W. Highway 105, P.O. Box 326  
Monument, CO 80132  
(719)481-3455

## Important Information on Your Pet's Upcoming Surgery

The doctor has recommended surgery for your pet. Here is some general information about surgery at Front Range Animal Hospital. If we have not answered all your questions, please let us know. That is what we are here for!

### Preanesthetic Blood Testing

There are two reasons to do pre-anesthetic blood tests-- to evaluate the organs that process the anesthesia and to uncover any hidden health issues that could be worsened by having anesthesia. It is surprising how often we find health problems on pets that appear perfectly normal on their exam, even the young ones! That's why we recommend testing for ALL pets having anesthesia. To take advantage of this safety measure you can:

Make an appointment 2 days or more before the surgery appointment to have the blood sample drawn by the Technician. This is the best value. Have the tests run on the same day as surgery.

### EKG (Electrocardiogram)

We offer an EKG the day of surgery to check for an abnormal heart rhythm. Because anesthesia can make pre-existing heart problems worse, we recommend all our patients have a pre-op EKG. Please let us know if you wish to take advantage of safety measure.

IV Fluids: Your pet will have an IV catheter placed. IV fluids are beneficial during anesthesia to support the blood pressure. Owners may waive fluids for short procedures on young animals, who are usually good at maintaining their blood pressure. Fluids may be required if your pet is older, has health problems or the procedure will be over 30 minutes. Fluids may also become required (even if you waived them), if your pet has trouble maintaining his blood pressure. The cost of IV fluids during anesthesia is \$35.

MAKE YOUR LIFE EASY! It is a great time to add in other things. Your pet will never know! Also available:

vaccine    nail trim (free)    Heartworm Test    microchip (an ID)    anal glands  
 dental    x-rays (arthritis or dysplasia screen)    clip fur (sanitary)    fecal worm  
check    flouride (young pets)    ear clean or pluck    collect urine for testing  
 other \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*Notify the Technician if you need more information on any items\*\*\*\*\*.

**Additional cost of selected services:**

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Anesthesia: We do many things to make the anesthesia safe. We use the same anesthetic agents as human hospitals today. Your pet will breathe 100% oxygen. The heartbeat, respirations, blood pressure and blood oxygen levels are monitored throughout the anesthesia with electronic

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monitors. A trained Technician will be assigned to monitor your pet throughout the anesthetic and recovery period. Blood testing, EKG, and IV fluids are also safety measures.

**Keeping your pet pain-free:** We are committed to making sure your pet is comfortable after surgery. Our compassion motivates us to alleviate pain, and also pain control leads to faster healing and less infections! Pain perception is unique to each individual. You will be given guidelines on recognizing pain. If you feel your pet's pain is not adequately controlled, please notify us right away.

**Shaved Fur:** Fur is shaved for several reasons: to make it easier to get a blood sample, to place an IV catheter, to monitor the blood pressure, and to aid in disinfecting the skin where the surgery will be done.

**Protect the incision to assure healing:** The incision should be protected from your pet rubbing, scratching, licking or chewing the area. If we feel it will be helpful, your pet may be sent home with an Elizabethan collar (E-collar or 'cone'). Your pet should wear this at all times unless closely supervised. An alternative to the E-collar is the Bite Free collar, a stiff padded plastic tube worn around the neck that prevents the pet from turning the head to reach the incision. It is more user-friendly than wearing an E-collar but also more expensive. Please let the technician know if you would prefer to buy the Bite Free alternative. Other protection ideas, depending on the incision location, include bandages, t-shirts, boxer shorts and socks.

**The Night before Surgery:** Please take up all food after 8 p.m. the night before. Water is OK. Make sure everyone in the house knows "no food, no treats, and no breakfast". We need an empty tummy for the anesthesia.

**Admission and Discharge:** Admission appointments take about 10 minutes and are scheduled 7:30-8:00. That morning, you will select your pick-up time, sometime between 3-5 that afternoon. Please allow 10 minutes for the Discharge Appointment. The technician will go over post-op instructions specific to your pet. You will also be called when your pet is waking up. Plan to be available by phone on surgery day, in case we need to contact you.

**The first 24 hours:** Your pet may be tired or groggy from the anesthetic. He may have some rear limb weakness or be a little chilled from the anesthetic. You must keep your pet inside the first 24 hours, in a warm place. Dogs may go outside briefly, on leash, to eliminate. For cats, make sure the litterbox is only a short walk, and if needed, provide a box with a lower side for easy entrance. Water and a light meal can be offered that night, unless otherwise instructed. Do not worry if your pet is not hungry, or if he does not pass a bowel movement for a day or two. That is fairly common.

**The first 2 weeks:** Depending on the type of surgery, your pet may need to be exercise-restricted (no running, limit stairs) for up to 5+ days. This means dogs should be on a leash when they go outside.. Any external sutures are removed at 2 weeks. If you have any concerns (pet is acting sick, painful, or problems with the incision — drainage, missing sutures, or swelling), contact us right away. One free post-op examination, and a free suture removal is part of the surgery service. Bandage changes, additional medicine or treatments are additional cost.

**Cost of Surgery and Payment:** It is our policy to provide an estimate of expected cost to the owner prior to surgery. The final bill may be more than the estimate, if unexpected issues arise, or the surgery turns out to be more involved than anticipated. Payment is expected the day of surgery. A deposit may be required before proceeding with surgery. We take cash, checks, VISA, Mastercard, and Discover. For clients who need to pay over time, we do accept Care Credit ([www.carecredit.com](http://www.carecredit.com)) which gives you up to 6 months to pay off the bill, with no interest fee. Care Credit is also useful with dentist and optometrists.

### **To Proceed:**

1. Schedule surgery on a day you can admit between 7:30-8:00, return 3-5p.m. and are available by phone.
2. Schedule a technician appointment 2-4 days prior to surgery if you want the lower cost blood tests.
3. If more convenient, pre-anesthetic blood test and EKG can be done same day as surgery,
4. Apply for Care Credit if you need to pay in installments.
5. The night before surgery, take up all food after 8 p.m. You can leave the water out.
6. Request a written estimate if you have not received one.