

Surgical Services - WHAT SHOULD YOU ASK ABOUT?



Why is it important to ask the right questions?

If you want the kind of care for your cherished pet that you want for yourself or other family member, you need to investigate the quality of care you are being offered by *any* veterinarian. Unfortunately, similar sounding procedures are frequently not the same at different veterinary hospitals.

To get high quality care, you need to choose a hospital with high standards. When asking about any service, please inquire as to what is included in the procedure that you are interested in. A good clinic should be happy to talk to you about all of these factors.

Once you have all the appropriate information, you can make an informed choice as to what level of health care you would like for your pet.



Pre-anesthetic blood testing: This is done to make sure that your pet's internal organs such as the kidneys and liver are functioning correctly.

Pre-operative pain medication: Studies have shown that pain medication given *before* a procedure is much more effective in preventing pain than pain medication given after the procedure.

Anesthetic monitoring: The blood oxygen level and blood pressure measurements are very important as they can point to early signs of anesthetic problems when those problems can still be fixed.

Dedicated anesthesiologist: It is important for your pet's safety that there be someone present during the procedure whose only task is to monitor your pet. Would you be comfortable going under anesthesia if the only person in the room with you was the person performing the procedure?

IV Catheter & Fluids: An IV catheter allows instant access to the circulatory system if any emergency drugs need to be given. IV fluids are used to keep the blood pressure in a safe range and help preserve kidney function during anesthesia.

Post-Operative Laser Therapy: Most patients will receive laser therapy post-operatively to help reduce pain and inflammation. It also aids in the healing process.

Surgical Laser: The surgical laser seals blood vessels and nerve endings as it "cuts". This means that there is reduced bleeding, swelling, and pain than in traditional scalpel surgery. Laser use typically leads to a faster and more comfortable recovery for the patient. The laser is especially beneficial for declawing and mass removals.

Nerve blocks when appropriate: Local anesthetic should be used prior to declaw procedures (*feline*) and tooth extractions. This reduces the pain associated with these procedures leading to a faster recovery.

Post-surgical pain medication: Any patient that has had a surgical procedure performed should be provided with pain medication to be given at home.

Detailed written home care instructions:

You should always receive written instructions after your pet's procedure so that you know how to care for him or her, know what is normal after anesthesia, and know who to call if you think there is a problem.



Checklist

In order to help people make an informed decision, we have provided this checklist to easily compare our procedures with those of other facilities.

	<i>Young's</i>	<i>Other</i>
Pre-anesthetic blood work	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pre-operative sedatives	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pre-operative pain medication	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
General anesthesia	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anesthetic monitoring capabilities		
Heart Rate	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Respiration Rate	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Temperature	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pulse oximeter	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blood pressure	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dedicated anesthesiologist	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
IV Catheter and fluids	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surgical Laser available	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nerve blocks when appropriate	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Post-surgical pain medications	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Post-operative Laser Therapy	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Written homecare instructions	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No charge Surgical Recheck	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>