**Surgical Information**

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

Please read all of the enclosed information carefully. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us. On your pets’ surgery day, we require you to review and sign an Authorization form- which allows you to choose optional services. This form in not included in the packet and will be provided to you at our office prior to admitting your pet for services.

We require a phone number(s) where you can be reached surgery day. Failure to be reached on the day of the procedure may result in postponement of the surgery.

The night before your pet’s surgery:

 \*Withhold all food/treats and water after midnight.

\*If you are currently administering any medications, please withhold the morning doses unless otherwise instructed by the doctor. Please bring any current medications with you during check-in.

Please make arrangements for your pet to be dropped off on the morning of scheduled surgery between **7am-7:30am**. At time of drop off, our team will be happy to answer any questions or concerns that you may have.

Our veterinary team will escort your pet to the surgical prepping area to wait for their surgery. We will collect blood for a pre-anesthetic panel and place an IV catheter. If any question arises, the doctor may contact you at the number on the authorization for you will complete the morning of surgery.

You are welcome to check up on your pet’s status, however, we request that you allow plenty of time for your pet’s procedure to be done. Surgical discharge is between **5pm-6pm** unless other arrangements have been made. When you arrive to take your pet home, the doctor or technician will go over all discharge orders verbally and give you a written copy. If you do not understand any of the instructions, please do not hesitate to ask them to go over them one more time.

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 any and all questions concerning the upcoming procedure.

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

**Pre-anesthetic blood testing information**

Our greatest concern is the well-being of your pet. Before putting your pet under anesthesia, we routinely perform a full physical exam. A pre-anesthetic blood profile is required on all pets’ undergoing anesthesia to maximize patient safety.

The pre-anesthetic blood profile helps alert our surgeon to the presence of hydration, anemia, infection, diabetes and/or kidney or liver disease that could complicate the procedure. These conditions may not be detected without a pre-anesthetic panel thus not allowing fo the most appropriate and safest anesthetic regime to be administered. These tests are similar to those your own physical would run if you were to undergo anesthesia.

For feline patients, our feline owners will see an option for Felv/FIV test.

We realize surgery and anesthesia can be scary and we attempt to make surgery day as safe and comfortable for all involved. The physical examination and blood work done prior to any surgical procedure allows us to minimize anesthetic and surgical risks and maximize patient safety.

**Intravenous catheterization and fluids**

We require the placement of an IV catheter and use of IV fluids during all anesthetic procedures. This allows us to have quick, available access to the circulatory system (blood) in case of an unforeseen emergency. The fluids help provide support to the circulatory system and prevent dehydration, as well as aid in a quicker recovery from anesthesia.

**Monitoring and pain Management**

Monitoring of patients during anesthesia is done in two ways. First, a technician or assistant is with your pet continuously from the beginning of anesthesia to recovery. Second, we have a computerized monitor that records the heart, oxygen levels, ECG and patient temperature.

Our clinic strongly believes in compassionate, quality, medical care for all of our patients. As a result, all surgery patients will receive pain management before, during, and after surgery as needed. Additionally, pain medication may be prescribed to administer at home. Additional information will be given at discharge. We hope this program will reduce any discomfort experienced and aid in a quicker recovery.

**Procedures and Risks**

We use a combination of pre-anesthetic medications to achieve optimum levels that are safe for your pet.

For short procedures or those that require minimum sedation, your pet may receive an injectable anesthetic that produces a good plane of surgical anesthesia with a quick recovery.

For most procedures, your pet is anesthetized and then intubated (insertion of a tube into the trachea or wind pipe). This will ensure that your pet is able to receive oxygen at all times and prevents aspiration of any fluids into the lungs. Anesthesia is maintained with a gas anesthetic that is safe and metabolized by the body. This allows us to have more control over anesthetic depth.

It is important for you to 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 the added precautions you allow to avoid potential problems.

***Thank you for entrusting your pet to us.***

***The doctors and staff at The Animal Hospital at Lake Brandt***