

Benefits of high quality surgery at Log Cabin Animal Hospital

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We are very proud of our surgery facilities and practices. Log Cabin Animal Hospital is accredited with the American Animal Hospital Association which means we must meet certain standards for our surgical and anesthetic protocols that will ensure that your pet receives the highest standard of care.

Sterile Surgery

Our doctors wear a surgical cap and mask, as well as a sterile gown and gloves. This protective gear provides a barrier between the veterinarian and your pet preventing contamination and subsequent infection. Prior to donning the sterile gown and gloves for surgery, doctors perform surgical scrubs of their hands and arms for 10 minutes with a special antimicrobial soap, similar to what you may have seen on TV for human surgeons. All surgical equipment & instruments are fully sterilized in between each patient.

Careful monitoring

Our patients are monitored closely during anesthesia by a Licensed Veterinary Technician who is physically evaluating your pet's anesthetic depth, pulse, and respiration and changing the anesthesia as appropriate to reflect these findings. We place IV catheters into the vein of our surgery patients so that in the event of an emergency, we have immediate access to a vein for administration of life-saving drugs and fluids. If a pet is going to have an adverse reaction to anesthesia, careful monitoring allows us to prevent it or catch it early and IV catheters allow us to respond much more quickly with treatment, thus saving lives. *Our Bionet "VetNext" anesthesia monitor continuously measures important parameters about your pet while it is anesthetized: blood pressure, pulse oximetry (blood oxygen saturation), ECG, heart rate, body temperature, and respiration. These are very important to help us monitor how your pet is responding to anesthesia and to catch and treat problems quickly, before they lead to life threatening complications.*

Prevention of Hypothermia

We are aggressive in preventing hypothermia in our anesthetized patients with active body warming procedures. Warmth is important to circulation and anesthesia itself has a cooling effect on the core body temperature. *All surgical patients are placed on a circulating warm water blanket and we have a "Cloud 9" warm air patient warmer, for use as needed as well.* The body temperature is continuously monitored while under anesthesia with our temperature probe so that adjustments can be made, if needed.

Safe Anesthetic

Our anesthesia protocol is one of the safest available. A "pre-medication" injection is given into your pet's muscle to help relax them (and for pain prevention), and then approximately 15-20 minutes later they are given an injection of "induction" drugs into the vein. Pets have an intravenous catheter placed by this time to allow ease of administration and easy access to a vein should an emergency arise. The induction drugs work within seconds allowing us to place a tube into your pet's airway that allows us to give him or her a gas anesthetic and oxygen mixture directly into the lungs. This gas anesthetic is what keeps your pet asleep. We use only Isoflurane, which is the accepted standard in veterinary medicine for this use. When surgery is finished, we turn off the gas anesthetic part of the anesthesia machine and the pet breathes 100% oxygen for 5 minutes (this helps to rid the body of the gas anesthetic). When the pet is awake enough to

swallow, the tube can be removed safely. Because of the protocol we use, most pets are awake from surgery within minutes, with minimal pain. Of course every patient is different, so the protocol we use is amended to fit each individual.

Pain Prevention

We are very aggressive about pain management. Every surgery patient is given injections of pain medication before surgery as well as after, and oral pain medications are prescribed to go home for almost all surgeries as well.

Recommendations

If you have scheduled your pet for surgery with us, please remove all food and water by midnight the night before. If your pet has a special medical condition (such as diabetes) please consult with our doctors before withholding water. Please drop your pet off at the hospital between 8-9am. At this time, a staff member will speak with you briefly about the surgery and go over forms. Please allow approximately 15 minutes of your time when you drop off your pet.

We recommend pre-anesthetic bloodwork for all pets. This is so that we can catch any abnormalities before we place the pet under anesthesia. In some cases a change is minor so we can recommend to just have it rechecked later, but in other cases we discover something more serious on the bloodwork that changes the anesthesia protocol or causes surgery to be postponed or cancelled. This bloodwork is so important that a minimum of profile #1 is required for senior pets (over 7 years of age). We recommend bloodwork for our non- senior patients as well. We have several pre-anesthetic bloodwork options available for you to choose from.

CBC: Complete Blood Count - includes red blood cells (anemia), white blood cells (infection), platelets (clotting). It also measures different kinds of these cells and different parameters (size, Hemoglobin concentration) about these cells. This test is included in all 3 of the following panels.

Pre-Anesthetic Profile #1 (Chem10) : Basic profile that screens for diabetes (glucose), kidney disease (BUN & Creatinine), and liver disease (ALT, ALP)

Pre-Anesthetic Profile #2 (Chem15) : In addition to all of the above, this upgrade profile also includes, calcium (some cancers), bilirubin (liver), amylase (pancreas), albumin (protein), globulin (immune status), phosphorus (kidney)

Pre-Anesthetic Profile #3 (Chem15 PLUS T4): All of the above PLUS "T4" which is total thyroxine. This evaluates the thyroid gland for overproduction (common in cats) or underproduction (common in dogs) of this hormone that is important for metabolism.

These blood tests tell us a lot of information about what is going on inside your pet and provide helpful insights into how their organs are functioning.

A Note About Senior Pets

Patients who are 7 years and older are at a higher risk of having pre-existing health issues, and therefore we require labwork prior to anesthesia for the safety of these pets. IV fluids are also given to senior pets to keep their blood pressure up and provide good blood flow to the kidneys and other organs. This allows us to provide a safer anesthetic experience for our senior patients.