

Pet's Scheduled Surgery

Your pet has been scheduled for an upcoming surgery or procedure at **Mendocino County Animal Care Services located at 298 Plant Road, Ukiah CA 95482.**

****When pulling into our driveway - please don't come to our front doors.****

Instead, drive to the left and park in the gravel parking lot. After exiting your vehicle you will see a sign above the "Clinic" door on the west side of the building.

Still can't find us? Call 707-463-4782 for assistance.

You found us! If the door is locked we might have just been busy please knock on the "Clinic" door.

To ensure that your pet's surgery day is as easy and stress-free as possible we have compiled the following information for your knowledge. It will allow you to have a clearer understanding of what to expect and what is involved leading up to and during surgery. Please carefully read the following information and if you have any questions, feel free to give us a call at 707-463-4782.

The night before surgery - withhold all food & treats after 7:00 pm. Water may be left available throughout the night until 7:00 am the following morning. If you are currently administering medications, supplements, etc., please contact our office for instruction on whether or not to give them the morning of surgery.

On the morning of surgery - please be sure to come with your fasted pet at your scheduled drop off time, unless other arrangements have been made in advance.

Please bring your pets completed surgery form with you if you did use the online application process.

Please make sure the phone number(s) that you provide will make you reachable **AT ALL TIMES** while your pet is with us.

We will give you the time to pick up your pet before you leave. Failure to be reachable may result in postponement of surgery or additional charges if we are unable to contact you at the number(s) you provide us with.

Once the forms are out of the way - you and your pet will be directed into the Clinic to have their weight taken. This can be a challenging moment for dog parents especially because the scale is electronic and can make already nervous dogs more nervous. We may need you to place a muzzle on them to mostly protect them. Your pet doesn't understand what is happening to them or why they're being handed off to strangers. They aren't their usual selves coming into this situation. So even though a muzzle might seem "mean" it protects them from making a big mistake, causing harm to themselves and those of us in the Clinic.

After their weight is taken - the Clinic Technician will give them an injection that will calm your pet down. Afterwards, they will be escorted to their own quarters with clean, soft and comfortable bedding to rest while awaiting their procedure.

Anesthetic procedures - are generally done with a combination of pre-anesthetic medications/injectable and/or inhalant anesthetics to achieve optimum levels of anesthesia that are safe and effective for your pet. For most procedures our patients are anesthetized and then intubated - insertion of a tube into the trachea or windpipe. This ensures that they will be able to receive oxygen at all times and prevents aspiration of fluids into the lungs. Most often sedation is maintained with an inhaled anesthetic, which is very safe and is not metabolized by the body. It also allows us to have great control over the depth of sedation. Our patients are monitored hands-on continuously from the beginning of pre-anesthetics through the recovery period.

If your pet is undergoing something more complicated - eye removal, amputation, etc.

Intravenous catheterization and the administration of fluids during surgery are standard practice. This allows us to have quick available access to the circulatory system (vein) in case of unforeseen emergency, and we are able to provide supplemental fluids, which support the circulatory system and prevents dehydration, along with administering emergency drugs and aid in a quicker recovery from anesthesia. For procedures requiring minimum sedation an injectable anesthetic alone may be given that produces a good plane of surgical anesthesia with quicker recovery.

Following Surgery - your pet will be closely monitored by our amazing team of well trained volunteers. Your pet's nails will be clipped and any other easy medical or hygiene procedures we can do while they're sedated will be done as well. Your pet will have had pain meds administered and might have pain control sent home as well.

Now it's your turn...

When you arrive to take your pet home - payment will be taken for services rendered and the Clinic Technician will then go over all discharge instructions verbally and a written copy will be provided. Your pet will be groggy and may seem confused, tired, unsteady on their feet, have little appetite, exhibit restlessness or agitation.

Medications may be sent home post operatively, including but not limited to pain control, anti-inflammatories, antibiotics and/or a prescription diet. You may in some cases need to schedule a recheck appointment or suture removal time.

Your pet may have to wear an e-collar to prevent licking and you are advised to restrict exercise for ? days. During discharge you will be fully instructed but if you do not understand or have questions please do not hesitate to call to ask for clarification. That said, if you have serious concerns you will need to contact a veterinary office as our shelter business hours are limited.

Potential surgical complications - although uncommon they may occur. These include but are not limited to bleeding, swelling, infection, suture reaction and unfavorable outcome. It is important for you to understand that there is always some inherent risk involved with anesthesia & surgical complications that may arise anytime when surgery is performed. However, we strive to take the highest quality care of your pet before, during and after surgery to ensure the best outcome possible.

We understand that surgery can be a very anxious time but please be assured that we are here to provide the most pleasant and rewarding experience with the best results for both you and your beloved companion.

Thank you for entrusting your pet to us at Mendocino County Animal Care Services.