



River City
VETERINARY
HOSPITAL

What To Expect the Day of Surgery

We understand that entrusting your pet's well-being to us for a surgical procedure is a significant decision. To ensure a smooth and reassuring experience, we have prepared this client handout to provide you with a clear understanding of what to expect on the day of their procedure. From the moment you arrive at River City Veterinary Hospital, we aim to prioritize your pet's comfort, safety, and recovery. Our dedicated team of professionals will guide you through the entire process, offering support and answering any questions or concerns you may have. Rest assured, we are committed to providing the highest standard of care for your cherished companion throughout their surgical journey.

- **Please arrive for check-in between 7:00-7:30am.** This admission process will take approximately 10-15 minutes. A nurse will ask you questions about your pet's health, and confirm that you have reviewed and completed any necessary forms. They will also confirm with you that your pet received the pre-medication we prescribed and that they were fasted after 10 p.m. the night prior.
- After being admitted, your pet will have their vitals checked, blood drawn (*if preanesthetic bloodwork has not been completed already*), and have an IV catheter placed by the surgery nurses.
- The veterinarian will do a physical exam and review your pet's file. They will also review their bloodwork and make sure all of the parameters are in a safe range for anesthesia.
- After all physical exams are completed, the vet will determine the order of surgeries for the day. The order is based on complexity of the case, type of surgery, urgency of surgery, and recovery time needed for the pet.
- Your pet will be given an injectable premedication so they are able to relax. This also allows us to use less anesthetic drugs while they are under anesthesia.
- Once surgery is completed and your pet is in recovery, either the vet, or a member of the surgery team will call you to let you know how their surgery went, and schedule a go-home time.
 - **Please Note:** Go-home times can be anywhere from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm, so please plan for your pet being with us for the majority of the day.
- When you arrive for your discharge consultation, you will receive post-surgical care instructions from one of our veterinary nurses. If the veterinarian has prescribed any medications, the nurse will review instructions for administration at this time, as well.
- At the time of discharge, your pet may be tired and groggy. As such, it is important that they are transported home by vehicle and are not expected to walk. Once at home, they should be kept confined in a warm place to recover. Please keep cats inside for at least 24 hours.

If you have any questions before or after your pet's procedure, please do not hesitate to reach out. We want to make sure that you feel comfortable and informed, and are happy to help in any way that we can. See you soon!