



PREPARING YOUR PET FOR AN OPERATION

It is natural to be concerned if you have to bring your pet to us for an operation but most pets will, at some stage in their life, need to be anaesthetised or sedated for a clinical procedure. We will do our best to give you plenty of advice about what to expect and how you can help us to minimise stress both for your animal and for you in the run up and on the day itself.

The day before

Your pet needs to have an empty stomach to reduce the risk of them vomiting under anaesthesia. This means we generally advise owners to fast dogs, cats or ferrets from 6.00pm on the evening before but to offer access to fresh drinking water until 7.00am on the day of the operation. If you have a cat, we also recommend that you keep him or her inside overnight before the operation to ensure they don't satisfy their appetite by hunting or prevent you from finding them to bring them in.

Small pets, such as rabbits and guinea pigs, should not be fasted or deprived of water as their metabolism is different and they require constant access to food.

We will advise you if you need do anything specific for your pet – for instance if your pet is already on medication and you need to know when to give the last dose before the operation

– we will run through this with you before you bring them in.

Operation day

If the patient is a dog, give him/her a short walk before you bring them in but try to get to us in plenty of time so that you are not in a rush to carry out the admission procedures.

We will need to ask you to sign a consent form for the anaesthetic and the operation and we will also want to double check that we have the correct contact details for you. We will suggest a time that you can call us for a progress check and to agree collection time if your pet is coming home on the same day.

Once this is all done, we will give your pet a thorough examination to ensure they are fit to undertake the procedure.

While your pet is with us, we suggest you check that you have everything you need in place at home to help them recuperate. For instance, your pet may and still feel a little drowsy, so if they normally sleep upstairs, you may want to move their bed downstairs.

Once you are all set, try not to worry. If you are relaxed, it will be much easier for your pet to relax too!

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