



Orchard Road Veterinary Surgery, Inc
A Mobile Small Animal Veterinary Surgical Service

How to prepare you and your pet for surgery

When your pet is scheduled for a surgery you will obviously be a bit nervous and worried. That is to be expected. Prior to the surgery there are some things you can do to make their recovery easier for both you and your pet. Here is a checklist:

Prior to Surgery:

1. Understand the nature of your pet's injury or condition:
 - a. Be aware of all the options for treating this condition both medical and surgical
 - b. Understand the advantages and disadvantages to these possible options
2. You should have an estimate of both the surgical costs and any post-operative costs that are likely to be incurred at scheduled recheck exams. This will be provided by your veterinarian
3. Know what is involved in the postoperative recovery period and approximately how long an uncomplicated recovery is expected to take.
4. Restrict your pet from solid food for at least 8-10 hours prior to surgery. Water can usually be offered through the night unless otherwise restricted. Try not to feed your pet a rich meal the night before as this may predispose them to GI upset or diarrhea.
5. Check with your veterinarian if any medications need to be stopped and for how long prior to any surgery. (For example: NSAIDs are sometimes stopped 24-48 hours prior to surgery to minimize the potential risk for altering blood clotting, unless required for pain control)
6. Be sure to leave current contact information for you the morning of surgery so that the doctor may be able to reach you as soon as your pet is in recovery, but also in case any questions or concerns arise prior to the surgery.

Preparing your home for your pet's return:

1. Make sure you have an area of your home set aside to allow your pet to rest comfortably, be limited from too much activity and permit good traction for them to stand and move around.
2. Plan an easy method to get your pet in and out of the house to defecate and urinate. (or easy access to the litter box). You will need to keep your pet on a leash when outside and perhaps may need to carry or support them with a belly sling up or down any steps.
3. Limit your pet from running, jumping on or off furniture, and full flights of stairs early on.
4. Read and follow the post-operative care instructions from Dr. O'Brien and your Veterinarian
5. Another source for information is at the web site of the ACVS or The American College of Veterinary Surgeons at www.acvs.org. Here you will find a trusted resource for many surgical procedures

**If you have any questions or concerns please contact your veterinarian or
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