

Explanation of an Itemized Surgical Treatment Plan

Prior to your pet's procedure:

- **Pre-Surgical Examination** – A physical exam by the veterinarian to ensure your pet is healthy for his/her surgical procedure. This is a great opportunity for the veterinarian to identify any other physical concerns or additional needs for your pet. Some pets may have antibiotics or pain medication prescribed at this visit, depending on the severity of their surgical needs. Pet owners will be alerted to needed vaccinations, heartworm & tick disease blood test, fecal intestinal parasite exam, optional microchip placement, and monthly heartworm-flea-tick-intestinal parasite preventative. After all of your questions are answered, all paperwork and signatures will be completed.
- **Pre-Anesthesia Blood Analysis** – This test will ensure proper anesthesia selection, by giving information on the current health condition of your pet's blood and other internal organ systems. Using this analysis we can help your pet's anesthesia and recovery go smoothly.

The day of your pet's procedure:

- **IV Catheter Placement** – A small flexible catheter is placed in your pet's front leg for safe & easy administration of induction anesthesia, pain relief, or emergency medications. This is also how your pet will receive supportive fluids throughout some procedures.
- **Pre-Anesthesia & Induction** – These medications relax and prepare your pet for having their anesthesia/oxygen breathing tube placed.
- **Isoflurane or Sevoflurane Gas anesthetic** – This portion of anesthesia includes a sterilized endotracheal tube for breathing, tube placement, 30 minutes of oxygen and isoflurane or sevoflurane gas anesthesia, and monitoring of vital signs by your pet's doctor and certified technician as he/she becomes fully anesthetized.
- **Additional Isoflurane or Sevoflurane Gas** – Additional oxygen, isoflurane/sevoflurane gas anesthesia for more extensive procedures.
- **IV Fluid Administration** – Fluids are administered throughout many procedures to assist with hydration, proper blood pressure, and a smooth quick recovery. IV fluid administration includes the fluids, the IV administration set, a fluid extension set, and continuous monitoring by the doctor and technician throughout delivery of fluids.
- **IV Fluid Pump** – The fluid pump delivers a customized calculated amount of fluids to pets that need fluid support. The pump will also sound a safety alert signal if the fluid rate changes for any reason.
- **Surgical Monitor** – For most procedures, while pets are anesthetized, this monitor gives continuous vital sign readings to the doctor and technician for blood oxygen levels, and heart rate monitoring.
- **Pre & Post-Surgical Pain Relief** – Pain relief medications are standard for all surgery patients at our clinic. All pets receive pre-surgical pain relief, so the medication can be fully active and providing maximum pain relief by the time your pet's surgery is complete. In addition, all dogs receive at least 3 days of medication for pain relief to go home with them after surgery. Cats may receive either a long acting pain relief injection the morning following surgery, or may be sent home with pain relief medication. Pain free pets recover much quicker, due to reduction in stress and inflammation.
- **Ampicillin Injection** – An injection of ampicillin will be given to prevent infection due to incisions made in healthy or non-compromised tissue.
- **Sterile Surgical Instrument Pack** – Instruments used to perform surgery are always heat sterilized before use on a pet.
- **Surgical Procedure** – Surgical procedures vary quite a bit, and because most of our pet owners are not surgeons, these procedures can make many pet owners worried, uncomfortable and nervous. We want to make sure that we answer all of your questions and put you at ease about your pet's surgical procedure. Here are some items we want you to understand prior to your pet's surgery. If the explanation you or your family has received still leaves you with questions or unease, please ask us for more information. We all learn and interpret information differently, so let us provide you with enough resources to help you feel comfortable and at ease with the care and safety of your pet.

- How do I prepare my pet at home, so she is ready for surgery?
- What is the name of the surgical procedure and what actually happens or is done to my pet to make him healthier?
- What is the diagnosis of my pet's condition, and what is her prognosis for recovery?
- Are there complications or risks with this procedure?
- Are there options such as a surgical laser for this surgical procedure?
- What will happen to my pet and how will she be cared for before, during and after surgery?
- How do I take care of my pet at home after surgery? How will he feel? Will he have stitches? Will there be blood?

- **Daily Technician Care of Surgery Patient** – Patients are kept warm throughout their procedure using a specialized surgical warming pad, and patients are monitored and kept warm, clean, and safe throughout recovery. The IV catheter is removed and a leg wrap is placed to prevent bleeding once your pet has recovered.
- **Hospitalization of Surgery Patient** – Patients in the hospital are kept clean, safe and comfortable throughout their stay. Personal items such as collars and leashes are kept in small baskets outside of each personal recovery kennel. Blankets and toys from home will be placed with your pet for the familiar scent of family.
- **Antibiotics and/or other medications to go home** – Depending on the surgical procedure, antibiotics or other medications may be needed for proper healing. These medications will be labeled for proper dosing, and sent home with your pet following surgery. If your pet is not taking or not tolerating the medications, please contact our clinic for immediate assistance. It is important that all medications be given for the entire treatment cycle, in order to ensure complete and proper healing.