

## **PROCEDURE INFORMATION SHEET**

### **BEFORE**

When your pet's operation/procedure is booked in, you will be given an admission appointment time to bring your pet in.

For safety of anaesthesia your pet's stomach (unless they are a rabbit) needs to be empty. Cats, dogs and ferrets must be starved overnight. As a general rule this is considered to be from midnight. However, if your pet's procedure requires them to be starved for longer, your Vet will advise you. If your pet is diabetic, your vet will give you specific instructions about feeding times and the amount of insulin to give before your pet is admitted.

Your pet can have water until you arrive for your appointment. Dogs will feel more comfortable if they are taken for a gentle walk to give them an opportunity to eliminate their bowels before coming into the surgery. Please don't allow your dog to get wet or muddy, especially if they are having an operation.

Rabbits, Guinea Pigs and other small mammals (except ferrets) must not be starved at any point. Their delicate gastrointestinal systems require a constant supply of food and starving can lead to serious consequences.

### **ARRIVAL and DROP OFF**

When you arrive with your pet on the day, the first thing to do is let reception know you have arrived, they will give you the consent form to read through before your admission appointment. The consent form outlines risks involved with anaesthesia sedation and surgical procedures; we ask that you take time to read these pages. You will then be seen by a Veterinary Nurse in one of our consulting rooms, where they will discuss the plan for the day with you and answer any questions you have. The nurse will also examine your pet and check their vital signs before taking them through to the wards.

Once in the wards, your pet will be settled into a kennel whilst they await their procedure. We have separate dog and cat wards to reduce as much stress as possible. If your pet is having an anaesthetic, a pre-medication injection will be given to your pet. This is vital for an anaesthetic as it relaxes your pet before the procedure and also gives them pain relief prior to surgery.

A theatre Nurse will collect your pet from their Kennel and take them through to our prep area ready for surgery. The Nurse will look after your pet and reassure them before they go to sleep and monitor their anaesthetic throughout their procedure. When the procedure is complete the Veterinary Nurse will continue to monitor your pet until they wake up enough to be transferred back to their bed. Our ward nurses will then continue their support by making sure all their needs are met and that they are comfortable. Our nursing assistants are also on hand for your pet, they will take dogs out for a gentle walk and cats will be provided with a litter tray. They will feed all animals that are awake enough with something tasty to make them feel better.

### **AFTER and PICK UP**

You will receive a phone call or text message when your pet is well enough to go home and you will be asked to make a discharge appointment with a veterinary nurse. The nurse will explain discharge instructions with you, explain any medication that has been dispensed and answer any questions you may have.