

Aftercare

When you collect your pet, you may find them rather quiet and a little drowsy. Once at home, allow them to rest and sleep somewhere warm and quiet. You can offer a light small meal, and allow only small amounts of water. Do not worry if your pet does not eat much, their appetite should return to normal the following day.

Important Information

Should your pet have stitches, we very strongly recommend that you ensure your pet wears a buster collar. The benefits are not just for health reasons, but also for your purse. The buster collar will help prevent your pet from infecting the wound, and also pulling their stitches out. If this happens, a further operation and treatment may be necessary to repair the damage that your pet has done. This can prove to be expensive, especially 'out of hours', as fees are at a much higher rate than during normal working hours.

However, if the recommended use of a buster collar is not followed, Hillpark Veterinary Group cannot accept responsibility for the cost of any resulting treatment your pet may require.

Carefully follow all the aftercare instructions provided by staff, and if at all worried about anything, call us immediately.



A Reassuring Journey Through Anaesthesia

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Should your pet require surgery under anaesthetic, it is only natural that you may be a little concerned about their safety.

We are going to take you on a journey through anaesthesia, from before the surgical procedure, to when your pet returns home to you. We hope this will reassure and help you to understand in more detail, what will be happening to your pet, while they are in our operating theatre. Your pet is closely and carefully monitored throughout the whole anaesthesia process. They will be fast asleep, feeling no pain and be completely unaware of the procedure that will benefit their health.

With all anaesthetics there is a slight risk involved. However, you should always remember that vets are very experienced in administering anaesthetics, and will do everything prior, during and after the procedure, to minimise this small risk.

Feeding your Pet



We recommend that animals should **not be fed after 8pm the night before** any procedure.

You can allow them drinking water until the following morning, when it should then be removed.

Our staff will give you full instructions on feeding your pet before receiving anaesthetics.

It is very important to listen carefully and follow correctly. If at all unsure, please do not hesitate to ask any questions, as we are here to help.



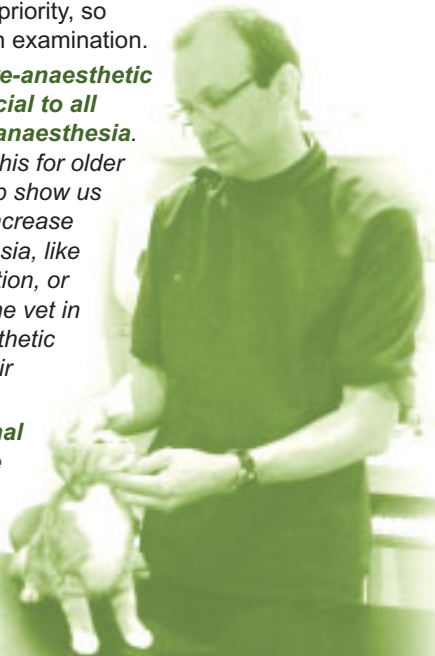
Before Anaesthesia

The safety of your pet is our priority, so they will be given a full health examination.

We also offer an **optional pre-anaesthetic blood test, which is beneficial to all animals about to undergo anaesthesia.**

We particularly recommend this for older animals. The results will help show us any problems, which could increase the potential risk of anaesthesia, like a weak liver and kidney function, or diabetes. It will also assist the vet in deciding on a suitable anaesthetic for your pet, according to their age and health.

This test will incur additional charges, so please enquire about these fees prior to making your decision.



There are 4 Stages of Anaesthesia

1. Pre-anaesthetic

Your pet may be a little anxious prior to surgery, so we administer pre-operative medication to help calm and relax them.

2. Induction

In general, the anaesthetic drug is injected into a vein on the front of the foreleg, and the patient gradually becomes anaesthetised.

3. Maintenance

A tube is then passed down the trachea (windpipe), which is connected to the anaesthetic machine, and a mix of gases and vaporised drugs are then passed direct to the patient through this tube. At times, only injectable anaesthetic drugs are used, but this depends on the type of procedure, the age or health of the patient. Your pet's heart rate and breathing is always carefully monitored throughout anaesthesia.

4. Recovery

Once the operation is over and the anaesthetics are stopped, your pet will soon begin to wake up. Staff will constantly observe, comfort and reassure the patient during this period, keeping them warm and comfortable until they are awake and ready to return home. With more complicated or lengthy procedures, they may have to stay with us a while longer for further observation.

