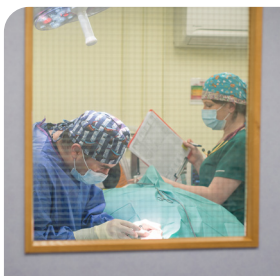


# Your Pet's Surgery



What happens on  
the day and follow  
up care





## Surgery at Coastway

We've produced this short guide for owners of pets who are having a surgical procedure with us, to explain and reassure them as to what will happen on the day of their operation.

### Before You Come In

Making sure your pet's vaccinations and parasite protection is up to date prior to surgery, will ensure your pet is in the best health possible to aid recovery.

### 24 hours Before the Operation:

1. For dogs and cats, no food is permitted after midnight on the night before the operation.
2. Small animals such as rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters etc. should be allowed access to food and water until they are admitted. You should bring in some of their own favourite food to tempt them with after they are awake.
3. Birds and reptiles have various fasting requirements depending on the species and size, so please ask your vet at the time of booking for more specific advice.
4. Water can be given until your pet is admitted.
5. Dogs should be encouraged to urinate/defecate before arriving at the surgery.
6. Cats must be kept indoors the night before the operation and have access to a litter tray.

## Brachycephalic (Short Nosed) Dogs

Please note that our friends with short noses may require a slightly different approach to anesthesia due to their susceptibility to Gastro-oesophageal reflux. This condition can result in undesirable complications during and following surgery.

In order to mitigate these risks, it may be advisable to administer a medication that reduces the production of stomach acid. This medication should be administered daily for a duration of three days prior to the surgery and for two days post-surgery.

## Anxious pets

If your dog or cat is particularly anxious when coming to the vet, there are anxiolytic drugs that can be given before their admission appointment to make their journey less stressful. If you think your pet could benefit from this, please speak to your vet before the procedure.

## Your Admission Appointment

We usually like pets to arrive early on the day of their surgery, so we can make the necessary preparations for the anaesthetic. When you arrive at the surgery your pet will be admitted by the veterinary surgeon, or nurse and you will be asked to sign a consent form for anaesthesia and the procedure to be performed. We will need a contact telephone number from you, in case we need to speak to you at some stage during your pet's stay. You will be given an idea of when and how you can contact us to find out how your pet is doing.

We'll usually provide you with an estimated cost for the procedure; please ask at this point if it hasn't already been discussed. If any extra costs arise while your pet is hospitalised,

we will try to contact you to discuss this. If it has not been possible to contact you, please be aware that the attending veterinary surgeon may proceed according to his/her opinion in the best interests of your pet and that the final cost of the actual treatment may be more expensive than estimated.

## **Consent Form for Anaesthetics and Procedures**

Although we try to make your pet as safe as possible, this form confirms that you understand that anaesthetic and surgical procedures involve some risk to the patient. We will ask for your permission to administer anaesthetics/sedatives to your pet and to carry out the surgical or medical procedures described on the form, together with any other procedures, which may, in the best interests of your pet, prove necessary. The consent form must be signed by someone over the age of 18. Please ask us if there is anything that you don't understand.

## **Unlicensed Medicines**

Sometimes during surgery we may decide that it's beneficial to use medicines that are not licensed for veterinary use. These "off label" medications come from the human medical field where their safety in the human patient has been proven, however their relatively low use in veterinary medicine makes it uneconomic for their manufacturers to apply for a veterinary treatment licence.

These unlicensed drugs have been shown to be of significant and safe clinical value, for example, in the provision of potent sedation, or pain relief and should circumstances arise where there is a clear clinical benefit to your pet, we may decide to use them.



**CALL OUR TEAM ON 01273 692257**

## Other Checks Available

We also ask for information regarding your pet's health and care on the consent form and give you the option of requesting additional checks and beneficial procedures associated with your pet's surgery.

### Blood Tests

Blood tests can help us make a better assessment of anaesthetic risk and so plan a safer anaesthetic. We recommend a pre-operative blood test for all cats and dogs over 8 years old. This is very helpful to diagnose underlying problems such as kidney and liver disease. Most results can be obtained promptly from our in-house laboratory.

### Microchipping

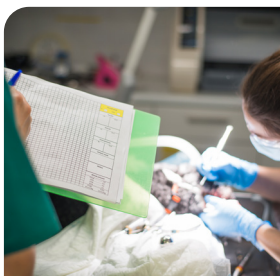
If your animal is not already chipped, an ideal time to do it is when he or she is under anaesthetic.

### Laser

Laser therapy can be used on surgical wounds immediately after a pet's operation to improve healing time, as well as reduce pain and inflammation.

### Lungworm (dogs only)

Lungworm infection is contracted by dogs if they eat infected slugs, or snails. Infected dogs can have breathing problems and poor blood clotting and so have a higher risk of serious surgical complications. If you don't use any preventative treatment for lungworm on your dog, we can do a blood test to check for it on the morning of your dog's operation.



## After Admission

On the day of surgery your pet will be taken to one of our four spacious ward areas. Cats, dogs and exotics are separated into different wards where a dedicated in-patient nursing team will remain all day. They will take blood tests and administer pre-medications as required. Your pet is never alone, one of our nursing team is with them and will reassure them at all times while preparing them for surgery. A small patch of fur may be shaved from your pet's leg so that we can give intravenous injections, or fit instruments to monitor your pet during the anaesthetic. It may be necessary to clip other areas of hair to assist with the procedure.

We take a huge pride in the level of care we offer, and this is reflected in the high quality of our operating theatres throughout the practice. We continue to follow and explore new anaesthetic monitoring techniques and reinvest in new theatre technology as it becomes available. We strive to make operations as safe as possible for all our clients.

After routine operations, most pets should be ready to go home within a few hours of waking up from anaesthesia. They complete their recovery back in the ward, where they continue to be closely monitored. Occasionally we might want to keep a patient in overnight and in these cases our

emergency staff will take over your pet's care. Dogs sometimes need toileting outside the building during their stay. If this is the case, two members of staff accompany them with separate leads to ensure the safety of your pet at all times.

During your admission appointment you will have been asked to call us at a given time, to check on your pet's progress and to arrange collection of your pet at a discharge appointment.

## Discharge Appointment

When your pet is ready to be discharged the vet or veterinary nurse will give you all the information you need to care for your pet after surgery. An appointment for any post-operative check ups can be made at this stage.

## Payment

Please note that our terms are payment at the time of treatment. We will request a 50% deposit at the time of admission, with the balance to be paid at the time of discharge. If your pet is an in-patient we will request payment on a daily basis to prevent a large balance accumulating, and to enable you to stay in control of your account. Under certain conditions we can arrange for you to do a direct insurance claim. This needs to be pre-authorised so please speak to your vet prior to the surgery day. We regret that we are unable to offer credit.



**DEDICATED CARE AND SUPPORT 24 HOURS A DAY**

## At Home After Surgery

At home your pet should be kept warm and quiet indoors for 24 hours. Your pet may be sleepy and wobbly on his or her feet. Your vet may prescribe painkillers, antibiotics or other drugs to help ease discomfort, or prevent infection. Some patients like to lick their wounds and to try to remove stitches, if your pet does this we can give you a collar to fit around its neck to protect the wound. If you are worried about anything at all, then please call us for advice, we are available 24 hours a day.

We hope you've found this guide useful and reassuring with regard to the quality of your pet's care at Coastway Vets. If you have any further questions about your pet's operation, ask your vet or any of our nursing team who will be happy to help.

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***If you're at all worried, you can call for advice 24 hours a day.”***



Find us on:



**COASTWAY  
VETS** PET CARE ✓  
YOU CAN TRUST

**CALL OUR TEAM ON 01273 692257**