

## PRE-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS: SOFT TISSUE

Once your pet's surgery has been scheduled, please follow these steps below:

1. **LAB WORK:** Please perform lab work at least 2-4 weeks prior to surgery.

This may be performed at VetSurg or at your primary veterinarian's office. The panel required is:

**If your pet is older than 18 months: Chem27, CBC, T4, UA (urinalysis) ; If your pet is <18 months of age: Chem11, CBC, UA (urinalysis)**

2. **CRATE / EXERCISE PEN:**

Identifying an appropriate area to confine your pet following surgery is imperative for a successful recovery. We recommend preparing the area ahead of time. Give treats and/or feed meals in the area to acclimate your pet to the confinement area. A crate is the safest place for your pet following surgery for 2-3 weeks time, but if your pet is small and/or will not attempt to jump, an exercise pen may also be an option.

**DIMENSIONS:** The confinement area should be large enough to allow your pet to turn around and lay comfortably. The area should not be large enough for your pet to walk back and forth. Your pet will also be wearing a cone (E-collar) for the first 10-14 days following surgery, so please take this into consideration when selecting a size.

3. **MEDICATIONS:**

- If your pet is receiving an anti-inflammatory (NSAID: Rimadyl, Vetprofen, Novox, Previcox, Deramaxx, Metacam, etc.), please discontinue the medication at least 5-7 days prior to the surgery date. Please stop any joint supplements (Fish Oils and Glucosamine and Chondroitin) 5-7 days prior to surgery.
- If your pet is on Adequan, please stop this medication 7 days prior to surgery.
- We may start your pet on Trazodone and Gabapentin twice daily 5 days prior to surgery. We will make any necessary adjustments to dosing depending on your dog's response to the medication. If your pet has any nausea, vomiting or inappetence please call our office.

4. **BATH:** Please give your pet a bath 3-7 days prior to surgery.

5. **DIET:** Please feed a canned food diet, or soaked kibble prior to surgery and following surgery to help prevent constipation. We recommend increasing fiber intake with the addition of canned unsweetened pumpkin. 1tbsp(s) per 20lbs body weight mixed in food. *Raw diets are not feed while your pet is in hospital.*

### 24 HOURS LEADING UP TO SURGERY:

- **FOOD:** Please do not feed your pet after 10pm the night before surgery; water is ok until the morning of surgery. *If your pet is a puppy and younger than 12 weeks, feed 2 tbsp of wet food at 6am the morning of surgery.*
- **MEDICATIONS:** If pre-operative medications are prescribed. Please give a dose of medications 30 to 60 minutes prior to admitting for surgery. The tablet can be given in a small meatball-sized treat.
- **ADMIT TIME:** Please have your pet admitted to the hospital between 7:30am -7:45am the morning of surgery. Please call us once you arrive at the clinic and we will check you in over the phone.

**Your pet's surgery may not start until the afternoon/early evening; you will receive a call when surgery is starting and following the procedure.**

- **PERSONAL BELONGINGS:** If your pet is on a special diet, please **bring it with you, along with all medications.** We are unable to feed raw diets in-hospital. We have plenty of comfy dog beds and blankets for the pets. Bring all medications in their original prescribed packaging and any food in a disposable plastic bag.
- **DEPOSIT:** A \$500 deposit is processed at the time of booking to hold the surgery date. At time of admit for surgery, we will need to process a 50% deposit of the estimate total. The balance due will be collected at time of discharge.