|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Ashland Animal Hospital**  **What to Expect: Day/Outpatient Procedures** | **10 Fountain Street**  **Ashland, MA 01721**  **508-881-2400** |

**We recognize that dropping your pet off at the hospital for a surgery or procedure is stressful! Here is a primer about what to expect the day-of the procedure. As always, if you have any questions or concerns or if you just want to check in on how things are going feel free to call us at any time!**

**Before Surgery:**

* **Fasting Requirements:** Your pet should not eat any solid food after midnight the evening before surgery. There are no restrictions on water intake. Appropriate fasting helps to avoid vomiting associated with some drugs/anesthetics used to get your pet ready for surgery.
* **Drop Off:** Arrive at the animal hospital at the designated time to drop off your pet with us for the day. When you arrive a technician will go over the financial estimate with you, have you sign some paperwork, and review your pet’s current medications. Your pet will stay with us for the day for his/her procedure and for post-operative monitoring and recovery.

**At The Hospital:**

* **Pre-Anesthetic Exam:** After your pet has been dropped off with us, the doctor will perform a pre-anesthetic exam +/- pre-anesthetic blood work (if this has not been done in advance). If anything of concern is found on either the exam or the blood work the doctor will call you to discuss whether to proceed versus postpone the procedure.
* **Pre-Medications (Sedation and Pain Medications):** Your pet will be given an injection of “pre-medications” shortly after arrival. These drugs promote a feeling of calm/sedation to alleviate any anxiety associated with being in the hospital. This allows your pet to rest and relax prior to their procedure start time.
* **Procedure Start Time:** We have multiple patients here each day for procedures. The order in which procedures are performed depends on what we have to do for the day. The order in which YOUR pet will be done is decided by the doctor the morning of surgery. We tend to do more invasive surgeries and/or older patients first, and leave less invasive and/or younger pets for last. We cannot predict exactly how much time each individual procedure will take, and also have to accommodate any emergencies that come in. While we recognize everyone wants their own pet to be done first, this is not possible, and we ask that you understand we are taking into account the health and safety of ALL our patients, not just your own. You are welcome to call in at any time if you would like an update on your pet!

**Going Home:**

* **Discharge Time:** Your pet’s discharge time will depend on when their procedure is completed, and how quickly they are recovering. Every pet is different. Some pets wake up quickly and/or are anxious in the hospital and may be discharged sooner if they are ready, while others may be sleepy/groggy and not ready to go home until later in the day. Discharge times typically start around 2pm and run to the end of the day. We will call you when your pet’s procedure is completed to discuss how things went, to review home care instructions, and to set up a specific discharge time.
* **Monitoring At Home:** You will receive a set of discharge instructions specific to your pet’s procedure.