



We know that surgery can be a very difficult and stressful time for both you and your pet. It is our goal at Trusty Vet to provide your pet the best in care throughout the stay for their surgery. Let's take a closer look into the day of your dog's or cat's surgery.

- It's early in the morning, and your dog or cat is begging for breakfast, but you have been informed by the staff from a reminder phone call yesterday that your pet needs to be fasted before surgery.

You also remember to take away any water that your pet may have access to as soon as you get up.

- The staff at Trusty Vet requires that your pet arrive at the hospital very early to allow proper preparation for its surgery to be completed. Luckily, it's not quite as early as they would require for you at Huntsville or Crestwood hospitals, but we need to see your pet's darling face between 7-7:30 AM. During the check-in process, the veterinary technician goes over the surgery consent form and answers any last minute questions you may have.

- Your dog or cat is weighed the day of surgery to allow for accurate calculations of anesthetic medications. The veterinarian then performs a pre-surgical examination.

- Blood samples are collected from your pet if you elected to have pre-anesthetic bloodwork performed allowing the veterinarian to be aware of any potential risks or complications involving anesthesia or the surgery.
- An intravenous catheter is placed in your dog's or cat's arm for your pet to have IV fluids during surgery to keep his or her blood pressure from dropping dangerously low and for fast administration of emergency drugs if an emergency were to arise.
- The veterinarian and technicians are now ready to administer "premeds" which allow your pet to relax in preparation for the surgery. After 10-15 minutes, the veterinary technicians then assist the veterinarian with administering induction anesthesia. At Trusty Vet, we use two very safe anesthetic drugs available, either Propofol or Isoflurane gas.
- After your pet is asleep and unable to feel anything, the veterinary technician scrubs the surgical site with a strong antimicrobial agent and alcohol. The veterinarian sterilizes his or her hands and dresses in a sterile cap, mask, gown, and gloves in preparation for the surgery.
- Your dog or cat is transported into the sterile surgery room where the veterinarian performs the time-efficient procedures discussed below. During the surgery, a veterinary technician monitors your pet, keeping a very close watch on his or her vital signs including heartrate, blood pressure if necessary, body temperature, and gum color. We utilize a ventilator to assist in maintaining your pet's breathing and appropriate oxygen levels during the anesthetic procedure. Knowing how your pet is doing under anesthesia is very important. Proper monitoring provides greater safety during surgery.
- After the surgery is complete, your dog or cat is moved to a recovery area that is warm and quiet. The veterinarian and technicians continue to monitor your pet closely until he or she is able to sit up well on its own. This is also when you would expect a phone call from the staff reporting that your pet is through with its surgery. Your dog or cat is given a post-operative pain injection and allowed to "sleep off" their anesthesia until it is time for discharge later in the afternoon.
- At your pet's discharge, the veterinarian will go over post-operative care instructions and any medications that may be sent home with your dog or cat. The veterinarian will also answer any additional questions you may have for taking care of your pet. A follow-up appointment will also be made before you and your pet leave for 10-14 days later.

A decision was made by the Trusty Vet founders early on that our services will be offered at an affordable rate and in a timely manner. In order to maintain that mission, we will provide limited surgery capabilities at our facility.

## Spays and Neuters

We encourage responsible pet ownership by spaying (aka an ovariohysterectomy) and neutering (aka a castration) of adolescent or adult pets. Trusty Vet offers these services at about a 20% cost savings from surrounding veterinary hospitals in Madison, Alabama. While there are a number of low cost alternative facilities that can provide these same services for less, we feel that our standard of care including IV catheter placement and IV fluids, EKG and oxygen saturation equipment monitoring, heated surgery table, ventilator that provides breaths for your pet while he or she is anesthetized, and full sterility practices justify our fees for what would be considered significant surgeries when performed in the human medical field.

### **Emergency or Elaborate Surgeries**

After careful evaluation of your pet's condition, it may be determined that your dog or cat requires surgical care that is extra time-consuming or beyond the scope of capabilities of the veterinary surgeon. If this were to be the case with your pet, the Trusty Vet veterinarian would explain to you that the best treatment plan for your pet would be to transfer their care to a more full-service hospital that would allow the opportunity for your pet to receive the critical or emergency care that it deserves.

### **Surgeries performed at Trusty Vet**

Surgeries such as simple tumor removals, urinary bladder stone removal, front paw declawing in cats, laceration or abscess repairs, and other time-efficient procedures as determined by the veterinarian are also available at Trusty Vet.