

Pre-Anesthesia General Information

Thank you for choosing Penobscot Veterinary Services to care for your pet!

We hope you will take a moment to review the enclosed information regarding your pet's upcoming surgery or anesthetic procedure. Our technicians will be happy to discuss questions or concerns you may have about any of the following material.

Please be advised that the doctor will not be available at the time of admittance.

Your Pet's Appointment:

If your pet is scheduled to have anesthesia, please do not allow your pet any food after 10 PM the night before. Keep water available for your pet overnight, but limit access the morning of your appointment. **Be prepared to spend approximately 15-20 minutes of your time for the admitting process. You can minimize this time by reviewing the basic history questions that are emailed to you prior to your appointment. If you do not think we have an email address on file for you, please give us a call so we can update your account.**

Treatment Plan

Please review the treatment plan for your pet's care that had been either mailed or emailed to you. This will provide you with expected costs of recommended services. Due to variations in drug dosages, procedure length, and specific patient's needs the final cost is often somewhere between the low and high values, even if optional components are declined.

Current Medications

If your pet is currently on medications, please bring them with you. If your pet is on chronic pain medication, please continue to give it up to the day of procedure. This will reduce the amount of discomfort associated with the procedure.

Pre-anesthetic Bloodwork

With modern drugs and sophisticated equipment, the risks associated with general anesthesia and surgery is minimal for the healthy pet. However, the potential for complications still exists. The best way to minimize the risk for your pet is to have a complete pre-anesthetic blood work performed before the procedure. This allows the veterinarian to identify many potential underlying problems that might lead to complications, and to make any adjustments necessary to safeguard your pet's health and comfort. Any pet having anesthesia will be required to have pre-anesthetic bloodwork.

What is involved in pre-anesthetic blood work?

All of our routine anesthesia patients will have a basic chemistry panel and a packed cell volume performed. If your pet is over seven or is at risk for infection we will also perform a complete blood

count. A more involved chemistry panel may be required for higher risk procedures or if the patient has complicated health issues. The required laboratory tests for your pet will be included in the treatment plan provided to you. Our technicians will be happy to discuss any questions you may have regarding lab work for your pet.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

Our goal is always to provide you and your pet with the best care possible. This is why, whenever your pet is to be left in our care, we will ask what your wishes are in regards to the use of CPR. Although we do not expect your pet to encounter life-threatening complications during a hospitalization or anesthetic procedure, we need to be prepared to provide emergency care for your pet if necessary. We will ask your wishes at the time of your pet's appointment. We know this can be upsetting to think about so we hope the CPR information below will help explain the available levels of life-saving care in a way that helps you be comfortable, whatever decision you make.

1. **CPR:** The purpose of CPR is to restart the heart and breathing through the use of chest compressions, mechanical breathing and medications. If the heart and lungs are able to be restarted, continued medical support is often needed while the body heals. This may include intravenous fluid therapy and additional medications to support any of the body systems affected by the cardiac arrest. Charges for CPR range from \$150.00-\$450.00.
2. **Do Not Resuscitate (DNR):** There are times when it is completely reasonable to choose a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order. For instance: personal beliefs, geriatric patient, terminal illness, etc.

Some things to know about CPR before making your decision:

- CPR is most often unsuccessful with only a 6% survival rate.
- If a patient is already receiving oxygen prior to a cardiopulmonary arrest, as is customary with anesthesia, the success rate is higher.
- If you have any questions about your life-saving care options, one of our technicians will be happy to discuss this with you.

Questions for specific procedures:

If your pet is coming in for a Cruciate Repair:

- Please confirm which leg are we performing surgery on:

If your pet is coming in for a Mass Removal:

- Where is the mass located that we are removing? If you are able, please use clippers to shave as small patch of hair from the location. (Do not use scissors) If you are unable to do this at home, the technician can do this at the time of admission.
- Do you want the mass sent to an outside lab for histopathology to assess for malignancy?

If your pet is coming in for a Dental:

- Do you want us to remove any necessary teeth? And if so, do you want them back?

If your pet is coming in for a Lameness Evaluation:

- Please confirm which leg(s) are we evaluating today:
- Has the lameness improved, worsened or remained the same since scheduling the evaluation?

If your pet is coming in for a Canine Spay:

- Has your dog been through a heat cycle? If so, when did it end? If she is currently in heat we recommend rescheduling her spay.