



OSAGE REGIONAL VETERINARY CLINIC, LLC

## Preparing Your Pet for Surgery

We want you to know what to expect, what you're going to have to do with your pet after surgery, how you're going to have to take care of them, and what that will require of you.

### **Why we recommend spaying and neutering your pets.**

Besides having unwanted litters, there are health and behavioral reasons why to have your pet fixed. Neutering males helps to curb aggressive behaviors, marking, and "wondering" for females in heat. Neutering also removes the possibility of testicular cancers and lessens the chances of prostate issues. Spaying females removes the entire uterus. This procedure stops heat cycles, pregnancy, and risk of pyometra (infected uterus) and lessens the chance of mammary cancers.

### **Why we want to see your pet before surgery.**

We want your pet to be as healthy as possible before undergoing surgery! This means we need to know them, do a physical examination, and run a few tests. We will make sure they are at good body condition, not showing any signs of illness, and don't have any other health issues that may need to be addressed before their procedure. Having your pet up to date on their vaccinations helps make sure they are safe while they stay in hospital with us. We will also run a fecal sample to make sure your pet doesn't have any G.I. parasites that can cause bleeding and slow healing in surgery. For dogs, we want to make sure they are heartworm negative if they have not been on prevention. For cat, we recommend testing for Feline Leukemia, Feline immunodeficiency virus, and heartworms before surgery. This helps us ensure that they will not be contagious to other cats as well as heal from surgery and can be expected to have a normal life expectancy.

**What should I bring with my pet day of surgery?** All your pet will need is a well-fitting collar! Your pet will go home with a "cone" or e-collar to prevent licking and chewing at their incision site. We will provide food, water, bedding, and medications your pet needs.

**What questions will ORVC ask me at drop off time?** This admission process will take a few minutes as you will be asked questions about your animal's health, and you will also be required to sign an anesthetic consent form. This form describes that no anesthetic or surgical procedure is without some risk to the patient. Every care is taken to ensure the health and safety of your pet- it is our first priority- however, we would be irresponsible not to inform you of the risks involved. If you are uneasy about this procedure or the complications that may arise, please contact us for more information. We are here to help. We ask that patients are to be dropped off between 7:30-8 AM the day of their procedure. Most canine patients go home same day, usually around 4PM. Feline patients will spend the night and go home the next day.

**Has your pet had anything to eat or drink since 10PM last night?** It is important that your pet's stomach is empty before an anesthetic as the drugs can cause vomiting and lead to an aspiration pneumonia during recovery. Your pet should not have food or water after 10 PM if they're having surgery the next morning. Your pet should also be fasted the morning of your drop off appointment.

**Is your pet up to date on all vaccinations?** Canine patients are required to be up to date on vaccinations before surgery. We recommend that feline patients are as well, but if not, they will be vaccinated next day.

**Has your pet had a fecal and/or been on heartworm and flea and tick prevention as prescribed?** This is important to make sure your pet is healthy enough for surgery! G.I parasites, fleas, ticks, and heartworms make pet anemic and at high risk for complications.

**Would you like to have pre-operative blood work run on your pet?** We offer to run a full wellness panel on your pet to check their liver, kidney, electrolytes, white blood cells, red blood cells, and other important blood levels to make sure they are healthy. If you pet have a senior pet, or a pet with other health issues, this may be required before a procedure. This panel is around \$125. All canine patients undergoing abdominal surgery will have protein levels checked, as well as be checked for anemia.

**Would you like your pet Microchipped?** A microchip is the only way to prove ownership of a pet. This will also help get a missing pet reunited with an owner if they are found and scanned. Cost to microchip your pet is \$50.

**Can we give your pet post-operative pain relief?** We always recommend post-operative pain relief for your pet. What your pet is prescribed will be based on what procedure is preformed and how your pet handles pain. Larger patients will have more cost associated with pain medications because of the high doses required.

**Canine:**

- Buprenorphine: Injectable opioid/narcotic with 12-hour duration for pain & calming. Usually given immediately post –op in clinic. Does have some sedative effects.
- Meloxicam: Injectable Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication with 24-hour duration for pain and inflammation. Usually given immediately post –op in clinic.
- Oral Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications: Send home oral medications with 24-hour duration or pain and inflammation. Similar to Celebrex Advil, or Alieve but in a pet-safe compound. Blocks inflammatory pathways in the body.
- Gabapentin: Take home oral pain relief with 8–12-hour duration that targets severe and chronic pain. Changes the way that nerves send messages to the brain for pain reception.
- Trazodone: Take home oral medication that has a calming effect for added comfort with an 8-hour duration. Usually, a good choice for very active animal to help with post-op cage rest.

<u>Estimated cost for:</u>	<u>Meloxicam injectable</u>	<u>Buprenorphine injectable</u>	<u>Oral send home Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory</u>	<u>Trazodone</u>	<u>Gabapentin</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Under 20 lbs	\$15	\$30	\$15	\$15	\$15	
20.1-40 lbs	\$25	\$45	\$20	\$20	\$15	
40.1-60 lbs	\$35	\$55	\$25	\$25	\$20	
60.1-80 lbs	\$45	\$65	\$30	\$30	\$20	
80.1-100 lbs	\$55	\$85	\$40	\$35	\$25	
Over 100lbs	\$65+	\$100+	\$45	\$40	\$30	

**Feline:**

- Zorbium Topical Buprenorphine: Transdermal opioid/narcotic applied in clinic that last approximately 4 days.
- Onsior: take home Oral non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication that has a 24-hour duration for pain and inflammation.
- Gabapentin: Take home oral pain relief with 8–12-hour duration that targets severe and chronic pain. Changes the way that nerves send messages to the brain for pain reception. May have some sedative effects.

<u>Estimated cost for:</u>	<u>Zorbium</u>	<u>Onsior</u>	<u>Gabapentin</u>
Under 6 lbs	\$35	\$15	\$15
Over 6 lbs	\$40	\$20	\$15

**Would you like an ESTIMATE for procedures?** We do our best to come in as close and possible, but things come up and we want to provide the best care we can. Larger dogs will generally have a higher cost because there are more supplies used as well as medication volume to keep them safe and comfortable. This also applies to an extra fee when your pet is in heat (more supplies used & greater risk).

**Patient Discharge**

When your pet is discharged you will receive discharge instructions from one of our veterinary staff members. You will also get a copy of these notes. Please feel free to ask any questions during the discharge consultation. If you get home and you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch. If the veterinarian has prescribed any medications for your pet our staff will give them to you at the discharge appointment and explain how to give them to your pet and when.

**Pet Pick Up**

When you pick up your pet they may be tired and groggy. Once at home they need to be kept confined in a warm place to recover. We recommend having a quiet place for them to rest for the evening. You can offer them small amounts of food and water when they get home. Some pets make take a day to bounce back and start eating and drinking normally again. If anything seems off, we encourage you to call us and let us know.

**How Long Will My Dog Take to Recover from Surgery?**

It depends on the type of surgery. In general, recovery from surgery is probably two weeks for most routine soft tissue surgeries. Following their post-op instructions will ensure a healthy and swift recovery.

The team at ORVC take the relationship with our clients and patients very seriously. We want you to feel at ease entrusting us with your furry family member and are happy to answer any questions at any stage in the process. We take pride in the services we provide and look forward to working with you to supplying your pet with the very best of care. Please feel free to call us to discuss any of your pet's needs further.