

## A Day at the Vets

Your pet will be/ has been admitted to have a procedure carried out and will need to stay with us for the whole day. We will let you know when he/ she is ready to be collected but generally this is late afternoon.

For most procedures and surgeries your pet will need to be starved from midnight the night before your pet's procedure (unless you are told otherwise). Your pet is allowed to have water up until they come in.

On arrival at the surgery you will have an admit appointment with one of our nurses. Please allow 10 minutes for this. The nurse will go through the consent form and answer any questions that you have about the day.

Once admitted dogs are kennelled and given a bed and water. They are taken out regularly throughout the day for toileting and to stretch their legs.

Cats are put in a separate, quiet ward to avoid stress and are also given a bed, water and litter tray.

There is a nurse looking after the wards all day, monitoring drips, anaesthetic recoveries, medications and generally keeping an eye on the patients and their comfort.

A vet will assess each case individually after admission. Any pre anaesthetic blood tests are taken and appropriate fluid therapy instigated. The vet will then decide what pre anaesthetic sedatives and other drugs need to be given appropriate to the individual animal and procedure.

The order of the cases for the day is then decided. The following considerations apply to how this order is determined

- The urgency of the case
- The type of procedure being performed
- Type of operation: 'clean' (neutering, orthopaedic etc) or 'dirty' (dentals, abscesses).  
Clean procedures are completed before dirty.

The order of the list is liable to change, as any emergency admission will take priority. It is inevitable in this situation that routine cases are delayed until later and we do understand that this sometimes causes frustration, especially when you are waiting and worrying about your pet. Please be patient and be reassured that your pet is being well cared for. While we do allow for emergencies when making bookings they are, by nature, unpredictable.

It is very important that we are able to contact you throughout the day as we will endeavour to keep you informed and we may need to discuss your pet's condition or treatment with you. We will update you on their progress in the middle of the day and let you know when he/ she is ready to return home. Please refrain from phoning if you possibly can as time spent answering your call will only delay completion of the operations and procedures.

**DO pass on to reception any change in contact details** or if you will be delayed on picking up your pet.

On collection of your pet full discharge instructions will be given and discussed with you by one of our nurses.