

Pre-Operative Instructions: Preparing Your Pet for Surgery

From the Office of Hani M Korani, DVM, DACVS-SA (H&M VetSurg)

To ensure the safest possible anesthetic experience and recovery for your beloved pet, please follow these instructions precisely. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may unfortunately result in the need to postpone the surgery.

1. Fasting Guidelines (Critical for Anesthesia Safety)

Fasting is required to prevent a serious complication called **aspiration pneumonia**, which occurs if a pet vomits while under anesthesia and inhales stomach contents.

Strict Fasting Rules:

- **Food Restriction: No food after 10:00 PM** the night before surgery. This includes all treats, bones, chew toys, and flavored medications. Even a small bite of food can be a risk.
- **Water Restriction: Water is acceptable until 6:00 AM** on the morning of surgery. Please remove all water bowls at 6:00 AM.
- **Puppies/Kittens:** Young or toy breed patients may have specific feeding requirements to prevent hypoglycemia (low blood sugar). **Contact your veterinarian or H&M VetSurg immediately** for specialized instructions.

If your pet eats anything on the morning of surgery, you **MUST** notify the referring veterinary team immediately.

2. Medications & Supplements

Regular Medications

If your pet is currently on any prescription medications (e.g., heart, thyroid, seizure, or pain medications), please confirm the protocol with your primary veterinarian.

- **In General:** Daily medications are often withheld the morning of surgery, but this is patient specific. **Do not give any medications without explicit instructions from a veterinarian.**

Pain & Anti-Nausea Medication

If you were provided any pre-operative medications (such as Gabapentin to reduce anxiety or Cerenia to prevent nausea), please administer these exactly as directed, typically 1–2 hours before your scheduled drop-off/admit time.

ABSOLUTELY NO NSAIDs

Do not administer any Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs), such as Meloxicam, Carprofen, or Galliprant, for at least **48 hours prior to surgery** unless specifically instructed by Dr. Korani.

3. Preparing Your Pet & Transportation

The Day Before

- **Hygiene:** If your pet needs a bath, please give it **24-48 hours prior** to the procedure, as bathing is prohibited during the recovery period.
- **Exercise:** Provide a normal, low impact walk or playtime. A tired, relaxed pet is often a less anxious patient.

The Morning of Surgery

- **Bathroom Break:** Please ensure your dog or cat has had an opportunity to urinate and defecate immediately before leaving home.
- **Transportation:** All dogs must be transported on a **secure leash**. All cats must be transported in a **secure carrier**.
- **Check-In:** Adhere strictly to the check-in time provided by your referring clinic or the H&M VetSurg team.

4. Documentation & Consent

Please ensure you have reviewed and signed all necessary documentation, including the surgical consent form and the cost estimate, prior to the day of surgery. This allows our team to focus entirely on your pet's care during the check-in process.

- **Pre-Anesthetic Bloodwork:** We require pre-anesthetic blood work on all surgical patients to assess organ function and ensure your pet can safely metabolize the anesthetic drugs. Your primary veterinarian will confirm if this testing has been completed.



5. Questions and Contact

If you have any questions or concerns leading up to your pet's surgery, please do not hesitate to reach out to your referring veterinarian. We are here to help make this experience as stress-free as possible for you and your pet.

We look forward to partnering with you and your veterinarian for your pet's care.