

# SURGERY FACT SHEET

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BEFORE AND AFTER YOUR PET'S SURGERY

No one likes the thought of their pet undergoing surgery but there are certain problems and routine procedures which require surgical intervention.

**Do not be overly concerned. There have been many recent advances in veterinary medicine and surgery. Diagnostics, anaesthesia, monitoring and surgical techniques have been developed to help ensure your pet is handled safely.**

### PRE-SURGICAL TESTING

Pre-operative testing is often recommended to help us uncover any problems not readily apparent. These tests may include blood tests (blood cell counts and blood chemistry), urinalysis, X-rays and electrocardiogram. Any abnormalities detected may need to be corrected prior to surgery or may merely indicate a change in the choice of anaesthetic or pre-surgical treatment. In this way, we can minimise surgical and anaesthetic risk. We will advise what testing may be appropriate for your pet.

### STANDARDS OF QUALITY

Surgery is performed with the highest standards of sterility and your pet's heart, lungs and other vital functions are closely monitored by our trained nurses. We may recommend intravenous catheterisation and fluid therapy for some patients. A decision is made for each individual patient usually after the results of any pre-anaesthetic blood tests are available.

### PRE-SURGERY INSTRUCTIONS

Please don't give any food after 8pm the evening before surgery and take water away one-hour before admission. **No treats and no cheating!** An empty stomach is critical for safe anaesthesia.

**DO NOT HOWEVER** restrict food or fluids for rabbits and other small mammals.

If your pet is taking medication, give the normal dosage at the usual time unless otherwise directed. If your pet is diabetic, please ask the veterinary surgeons for special instructions.

Surgical patients are admitted to the practice between 8:30 am and 9:00 am on the day of surgery. Please allow your pet exercise and time to empty bowel and bladder before being admitted unless otherwise instructed.

**WARWICK VETERINARY CLINIC**  
 4 Albert Street, Warwick, QLD 4370  
**P 07 4661 1105 AH 0408 716 305**  
**E** admin@warwickvet.com.au  
**Open** Mon – Fri: 8:30 am to 5:00 pm  
 Sat: 8:30 am to 12:00 pm

**ALLORA VETERINARY CLINIC**  
 60 Herbert Street, Allora, QLD 4362  
**P 07 4666 3127 AH 0408 716 305**  
**E** admin@warwickvet.com.au  
**Open** Mon – Fri: 8:30 am to 5:00 pm  
 Sat: 8:30 am to 10:30 am

**CLIFTON VETERINARY ROOMS**  
 62 Clark Street, Clifton, QLD 4361  
**P 07 4666 3127 AH 0408 716 305**  
**E** admin@warwickvet.com.au  
**Open** Wednesday and Friday:  
 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

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## TYPES OF ANAESTHETICS USED

We will determine which anaesthetic is best for your pet and for the procedure being performed. Some short procedures are conducted under short acting anaesthetics injected into the muscle or vein. Longer procedures are carried out under gas anaesthesia, which is delivered through a tube placed in the windpipe.

We now normally use Alfaxan and isoflurane, which are considered two of the safest anaesthetic agents for animals, resulting in less stress on the heart, kidneys and liver and allows very accurate adjustments to anaesthetic levels. Consequently, your pet will wake up more quickly and smoothly after surgery or dentistry. Because of its superior safety features, Isoflurane is especially beneficial if your pet is old, ill or debilitated or is an exotic species.

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

If there is any degree of dental disease and if circumstances permit, we might advise that the appropriate dental treatment should be attended to at the same time. For all animals, this is a good time to have your pet permanently identified by the implantation of a microchip to allow identification if he or she is ever lost or stolen.

You should be provided with a written estimate of the expected fees and other charges that will be incurred. You may request your bill-to-date at any point during your pets stay.

## DISCHARGE

We will make every effort to have your pet ready for discharge at 4:30pm on the day of the surgery. There may however be unforeseen reasons why we may need to keep them overnight. We will contact you if an overnight stay will be required.

When you pick your animal up from our clinic they may be a little drowsy. This is quite normal following an anaesthetic and surgery. The drowsiness should reduce over the next 12 – 24 hours. There will be some bruising, the same as in humans, so they should not be expected to be completely normal for a few days.

Keep them in a quiet, warm place and give only small amounts to eat and drink. Please try to keep your pet as quiet as possible until the sutures are removed. It is important to avoid excessive activity after surgery for proper healing as movement can result in swelling or seroma formation around the incision.

## COMPLICATIONS

Generally, there are very few complications after the operation, however, there are some signs to watch for that may indicate a problem.

1. Dull and listless (especially after the first 24 hours)
2. Excessive redness or irritation around the suture line
3. Swelling or lumpiness around suture

If you notice any of these signs please do not hesitate to call our clinic.

### NOTE:

**If sutures are present, your animal will need them removed in 10–14 days time so please arrange an appointment.**

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BOOK AN  
APPOINTMENT  
ONLINE  
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[warwickvet.com.au](http://warwickvet.com.au)

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