

My Pet Needs An Anaesthetic: 5 Things You Need To Know

1. Your pet's anaesthetic will be individually tailored to the health of your pet and the procedure your pet requires. **Whilst there is a risk with any anaesthetic we will use the most modern and safest medicines possible** to minimise the effect of the anaesthetic on your pet.
2. **Blood tests are a useful way of discovering if your pet has any special needs for their anaesthetic and are available on site with results on the day.** We often think of this being beneficial for the older patient i.e. those over 7 years old, but can also help us detect unexpected health issues in younger patients as well so that we can minimise the effect of the anaesthetic and prevent an issue becoming a problem.
3. For dogs and cats it is important that they are fasted prior to a sedation or anaesthetic. **We recommend that patients are not fed from 8pm the night before the anaesthetic. Water should be withdrawn on the morning of the anaesthetic.** However this is not the case for our exotic pets or smaller animals like rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters ferrets etc. Anaesthetics often have more pronounced effects on these pets and as they have a high metabolic rate with a grazing diet **we recommend that these pets are fed as normal leading up to their anaesthetic** and that you bring some of their normal food with them on the day of their anaesthetic.
4. The need for anaesthetic can be a stressful time for both you and your pet. We are here to make sure that you have all the information you need to feel confident that your pet's needs will be met. **Please feel free to ask us any questions you may have** when we are making your appointment or when your pet is being admitted for treatment. **It is our policy to make sure you are fully updated with your pet's progress and are informed once your pet's procedure and anaesthetic are complete.** For certain procedures or in the unlikely event of a complication we may need to contact you at short notice and **we would ask that you remain contactable throughout your pet's stay.**
5. To make your pet's stay less stressful **we aim to admit your pet in the morning when the practice is quiet** so we can concentrate solely on their preoperative checks. At this time we will discuss your pet's needs confirming details about any planned procedures, your contact details and what medicines your pet may have already received. **To allow your pet to settle quickly it is helpful if they have followed their normal routine and have already been to the toilet.** Some pets may benefit from a favourite toy or blanket being left with them as a piece of home away from home.