



VETERINARY
Wellness Center

Anesthesia FAQs



Our Care Team is committed to providing convenient care in a low stress environment.

Do you have concerns about putting your pet “under anesthesia”? You are not alone! Our team is filled with pet lovers who want to make the experience as comfortable as possible for both you and your pet. We use checklists, individualized medication protocols, multiple monitors, and detailed Care Team training to ensure your pet has the safest procedure possible.

Why is anesthesia necessary?

To control pain, prevent anxiety and fear, and safely restrict movement.

How does anesthesia work?

Injectable sedatives and gas (inhaled) anesthesia place the brain and body in a state of relaxed unconsciousness.

Is anesthesia safe?

Yes. Healthy pets have less than 0.1% risk of death with anesthesia. Pets with a stable systemic illness also have low risks that can be managed effectively. The health benefits and quality of life pets gain from undergoing dental or surgical procedures far outweigh the low risk of anesthesia.

What are the most common side effects of anesthesia?

- Low blood pressure- we adjust fluids and medications to maintain your pet's BP.
- Low body temperature- we use a heated table, warm air blanket & socks to keep your pet warm and snuggly.
- Nausea, vomiting- we recommend anti-nausea medication before anesthesia, then feeding a small meal in the evening.
- Delayed bowel movements- your pet may not poop for a full day after anesthesia. Urination changes can also happen during this time.





What happens during anesthesia? Let's follow Roscoe & find out!

Before the procedure-

- Roscoe stands on the scale, then rests in a kennel with a cozy blanket.
- Two Care Team members double check all of his medication doses.
- Roscoe gets medication to prevent pain & nausea, and help him relax.
- Roscoe's lab results are reviewed by his veterinarian before he is anesthetized.
- Once he's relaxed, Roscoe's leg is shaved and a catheter is placed in his vein.
- Care Team members double check all the monitoring and anesthetic equipment.

During the procedure-

- Roscoe gets an injection through his IV catheter (no pokes!) so he goes to sleep.
- A breathing tube is placed to provide oxygen and prevent Roscoe from choking.
- Roscoe is moved to the heated surgery table and covered with a heating blanket.
- Multiple monitors are connected so the Care Team can continuously monitor Roscoe's heart, breathing, carbon dioxide levels, blood pressure, and temperature.
- A trained Care Team member stays with Roscoe at all times while he's asleep.
- The veterinarian completes Roscoe's mass removal surgery, then Roscoe gradually wakes up in the arms of a Care Team member.

After the procedure-

- Once Roscoe is able to sit up and swallow, his breathing tube is removed.
- Roscoe lays back down in his cozy kennel where he can be seen by the Care Team.
- Roscoe's mom gets a text that he is out of surgery and in recovery.
- Care Team members continue to check on Roscoe every few minutes to make sure his heart rate, breathing, body temperature, and pain control remain stable.



What can I do to help decrease my pet's risks during anesthesia?

- Let us know if your pet has medication allergies.
- Have your pet screened for organ function changes through pre-surgical lab testing.
- Keep your pet on parasite prevention. Heartworms, tick-borne disease, and intestinal parasites can increase anesthesia risks for pets.
- Schedule procedures as early as possible. Spay & neuter young pets before they develop infections or cancer. Start dental treatments earlier in life so the anesthesia is shorter with less pain. Remove masses while they are small to decrease surgery time, improve healing speed, and increase the number of treatment options available if cancer is identified.