



Appointment Information and Checklist for Surgical Patients

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR APPOINTMENT OR CONSULTATION

A consultation allows us to review your pet's chart, perform an examination and discuss surgical procedures. While some diagnostic tests like radiographs or ultrasound *may* be performed the same day, procedures that require general anesthesia such as CT scans, MRI or surgery are usually NOT performed the same day as a consultation.

Surgery appointments are conducted with teams to provide the best possible care for your pet. Even though you may have an appointment with a board certified surgery specialist, you may not immediately see that specialist, but rather a technician, an intern or a surgery resident that is part of our surgery team. Rest assured that the specialist will consult with you about the care of your pet.

Please do not feed your pet for 8 hours prior to the visit, as sedatives may need to be given, and are safest on an empty stomach.

Please bring copies or have medial records (records, blood tests, biopsies) faxed from your regular veterinarian to our referral office at 212.832.5417. Additionally, please be sure to bring copies of all pertinent x-rays. Plan to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment to allow time to complete the admission process.

Waiting times vary for your appointment as emergencies may take precedence over scheduled appointments. We will do everything possible to see you and your pet in a timely fashion. Please ask for a clinic manager if you have any questions or concerns.

IF YOUR PET HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR SURGERY, PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:

The night before surgery:

1. No food after 8 p.m. Water is fine until admission to the hospital.
2. Continue all routine medications, including heartworm, flea control, thyroid supplements, etc.
3. Anti-inflammatory medications such as Rimadyl® and Dermaxx® may be given. Alert a member of the Surgery Service if there have been any adverse reactions (vomiting, diarrhea or other signs of stomach upset) to these medications as they are often used post-operatively.
4. Aspirin should not be given within 7 days of surgery.
5. If the patient is on steroids or cortisone for any reason, please bring him/her to the attention of the Surgery Service.

The morning of surgery:

1. Water may be made available until the patient is admitted to the hospital.
2. Do not give any anti-inflammatories or pain medications. Cardiac medications, insulin, or other daily medications may be required, so please discuss this with a member of the Surgery Service.
3. Drop off for admission is between 6:30 – 7:30 a.m. The surgery staff will not be available at this time, alert the admitting nurse to any questions or particular concerns.
4. Toys, blankets and other personal items may be left, however, they may be lost in our laundry service. Please make sure to take leashes and collars with you.
5. Please be sure to leave your home, cell and work phone numbers with us. A member of the surgery team will call you after surgery.
6. The admission desk will have you sign a consent form, an estimate form and require you to leave a deposit. Please ask the receptionist if these forms are not provided to you.

Following surgery:

1. Many of the patients that undergo elective procedures are able to be discharged late afternoon, the day after surgery. A member of the surgery team will contact you the morning following surgery to set this up.
2. For patients that require hospitalization for more than one day, visiting is encouraged. Please speak to a receptionist for visiting hours and to schedule a time with a member of the surgery team.
3. Discharge appointments are typically available in the afternoon of the day following surgery and must be scheduled with a member of the surgery team. Detailed explanations of important aspects of at-home care for your pet will be discussed. A copy of written instructions will also be provided to you.
4. While your pet is hospitalized, a member of the surgery team will call you at least once daily to update you. Please ask for the service phone number from a team member, as this will allow for a direct line to your pet's team during normal business hours.

Surgery Service Contact Information:

Dr. Avery Bennett, Chief of Surgery: Surgery Service 1

Service Phone: 212.329.8741, e-mail: Avery.Bennett@amcny.org

Dr. Janet Kovak McClaran: Surgery Service 2

Service Phone: 212.329.8744, e-mail: Janet.Kovak@amcny.org

Dr. Pamela Schwartz: Surgery Service 3

Service Phone: 212.329.8745, e-mail: Pamela.Schwartz@amcny.org

Thank you for entrusting us with the care of your pet. Please do not hesitate to contact a member of our surgery team if you have any questions!