

## INFORMATION SHEET ON ANESTHESIA FOR PETS

Most surgical procedures, as well as the reconstruction of the oral cavity and certain X-ray examinations, are performed on pets under anesthesia.

Anesthesia is the elimination of pain throughout the body, which is accompanied by muscle relaxation and deep sleep. Certain drugs (narcotics and anesthetics) are used for this purpose, which cause a temporary suspension of nerve cell function. This means that the main site of action of narcotics is the brain, the central nervous system.

At the same time, however, narcotics also have an influence on other bodily functions, such as gastrointestinal activity, respiration, circulation, heart function, temperature regulation, etc. This can lead to an undesirable effect, in the very worst case to the death of the patient, as vital systems are affected. This is generally described under the generic term "anesthetic risk" or "anesthetic incident".

Fortunately for humans and animals, narcotics have different effects on the various organ systems. By using modern drugs, often in certain combinations, the undesirable effects are kept to a minimum.

Anesthetics are selected according to the duration of the procedure and the required depth of anesthesia and are carefully tailored to the patient. The veterinarian usually knows his patient and the individual risks for each one. This is why anesthetic incidents are a major exception!

Of course, the patient owner, i.e. you, must also take certain measures to help minimize the risk of anaesthesia:

Due to the influence of anesthesia on gastrointestinal activity and the sense of balance, vomiting may occur. As the patient is already asleep, there is a risk of death by asphyxiation if vomit enters the windpipe.

Therefore, before any planned anesthesia:

6-8 hours of complete food deprivation for the patient, drinking water should always be offered!

Exceptions: If your animal is receiving an important long-term medication, this must also be administered with some cheese or sausage before the procedure, e.g.: Heart medication, thyroid medication, epilepsy medication. Diabetics come on an empty stomach and with half the injection dose of the insulin preparation; however, this is usually discussed with the attending vet beforehand!

In rare cases, special procedures require a fasting phase of 2-3 days; your vet will inform you of this separately.

Pets (e.g. rabbits, guinea pigs, rats.....) must NOT be fasting. It is best to bring their usual food with you.

Back at home, the patient should be placed in a warm environment; animals that are still staggering must be protected from stairs or slipping down sofas/stairs etc.

Drinking water and food can usually be offered again the same evening.

The anesthetic is administered as lightly as possible and as deeply as necessary. This is followed by a so-called post-sleep phase, the duration of which depends on the patient's constitution and the extent of the stress caused by the procedure. The recovery phase takes longer in the case of serious procedures or a previous illness! This applies to the day of anesthesia but also to the recovery period in the days following the operation.

A special feature of dogs: while the anesthesia is wearing off, some animals can howl or "sing" terribly. This has nothing to do with pain but is a kind of "state of intoxication" that is also well known from human medicine during waking. Unfortunately, this can be a bit annoying for owners.

If you have any further questions on the subject of "anesthesia", please do not hesitate to contact us!

Your vet

## **Declaration of consent for anesthesia**

von \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of pet owner)

My dog(s) / cat(s) / \_\_\_\_\_ will be anaesthetized / operated on today.  
(other animal species if applicable)

Purpose of the operation: \_\_\_\_\_

The anesthetic risk for my animal is.

- normal  
 increased because

\_\_\_\_\_

I have been informed/educated about the risks/side effects of anesthesia and have

- still have questions  
 no more questions.

Kleve, \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature)