



GENERAL ANESTHESIA FOR YOUR PET

General anesthesia is required for your pet for any dental or oral surgery procedure. We recognize that general anesthesia is one of our client's greatest concerns. We do everything we can to alleviate your fear and to provide your pet with a safe anesthetic procedure.

The preparation for your pet's general anesthesia begins long before any drugs are administered. Preoperative laboratory work including a minimum database of a complete blood count and biochemistry profile is required to be completed by your veterinarian prior to your pet's appointment with Dr. Charlier. After evaluation of your pet's medical history, Dr. Charlier and your veterinarian will work together and may request further diagnostic testing based on individual needs. These further tests may include urinalysis, thoracic radiographs, or heart ultrasound. While completion of pre anesthetic testing does not eliminate all of the risk associated with general anesthesia, it does allow us to tailor an anesthetic protocol specifically for your pet.

Pain management is one of our top priorities for your pet. We will create a multimodal preemptive pain management plan for your pet: multimodal meaning that we use a combination of drugs that will interrupt the pain pathway at different points and preemptive meaning that drugs are circulating within your pet's bloodstream prior to the start of any painful procedure. In addition to utilizing opioids (like morphine) and other drugs, we also always utilize local anesthetic nerve blocks. The purpose of these nerve blocks is to 'numb' the area prior to the start of the procedure. All of our patients will be discharged with pain medication for you to administer at home after their procedure. The use of multimodal preemptive pain management has been shown to decrease the amount of general anesthetic administered to your pet and hasten your pet's recovery.

Prior to general anesthesia, our patients are given an injection that has a combination of pain medication and sedative which allows the patient to relax. All of our patients will have an intravenous catheter placed. Intravenous fluids are administered to each patient during their procedure and afterwards until they are fully recovered from general anesthesia. The administration of intravenous fluids assists in maintaining your pet's blood pressure.

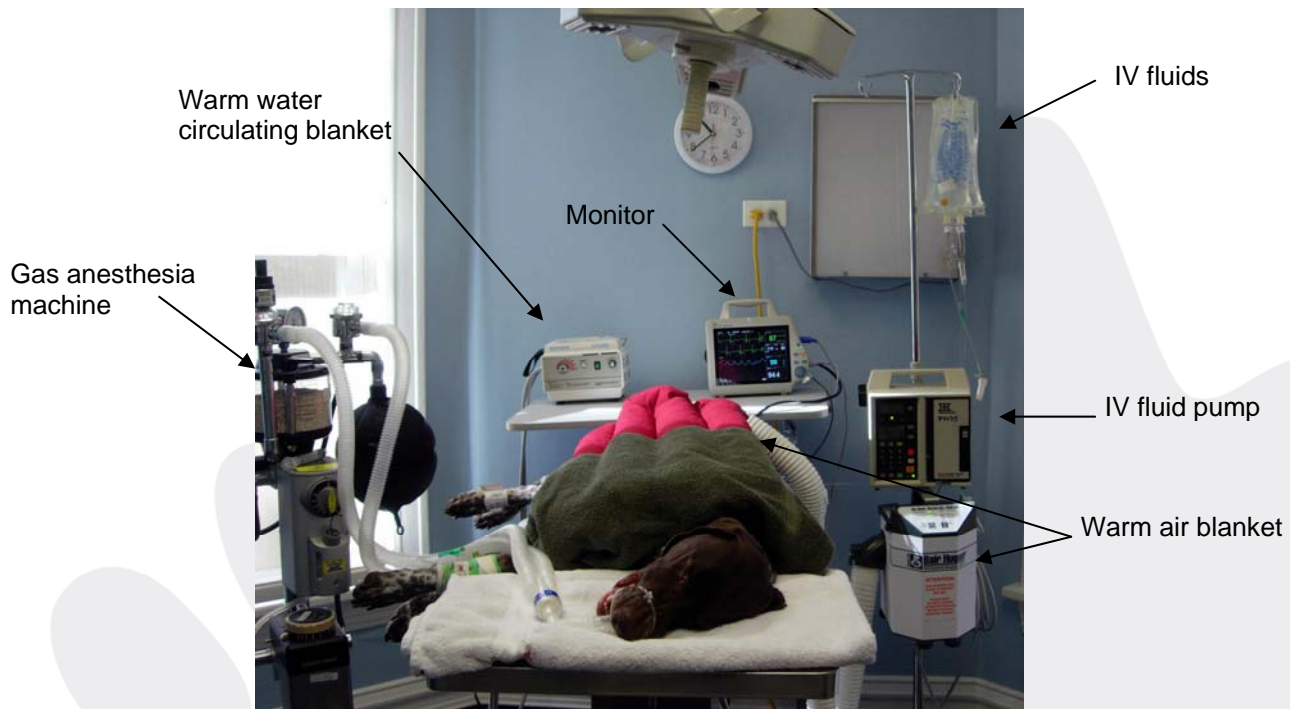
Your pet will be given a short acting drug to allow placement of a tube into its airway. General anesthesia is then maintained utilizing a combination of gas (isoflurane or sevoflurane) mixed with oxygen. To maintain body temperature your pet will be placed on a warm water circulating blanket and will be covered with a warm air convection blanket. Intraoperative monitoring equipment includes the use of body temperature, respiratory monitor, EKG, pulse oximetry and blood pressure. Stacy, our surgical nurse, monitors your pet's mucous membrane color, heart rate, pulse quality, respiratory rate and anesthetic depth continuously while it is under anesthesia. This combination of monitoring allows us to adjust your pet's general anesthesia as needed throughout the procedure.

p: 847.525.8642

f: 847.488.0705

www.fvuds.com

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Most pet's recover from general anesthesia within minutes after the procedure has been completed. We like our patients to be quiet and comfortable postoperatively, so additional pain medications and sedation are administered on an individual basis as needed throughout the day.

All of our patients will be released the same day as the procedure. They still may be a little groggy when they are released, but they will be up and walking. By the morning following their procedure they should be back to normal.

Although we can never guarantee the outcome of any general anesthesia, we do everything we can to minimize the risk associated with general anesthesia. Most importantly, we treat each of our patients as if they were our own.