

# ANAESTHESIA AND YOUR PET

What you should know about anaesthesia and the safety of your pet.

There's a high likelihood that your pet will undergo an anaesthetic in their lifetime, whether its for a routine procedure, such as a desexing, or a more pressing procedure, such as a cancerous lump removal or dentistry work.

What ever the circumstance, it is important that you are aware of what is involved, and the risks posed to your pet's safety and wellbeing.

## A bit about anaesthetic

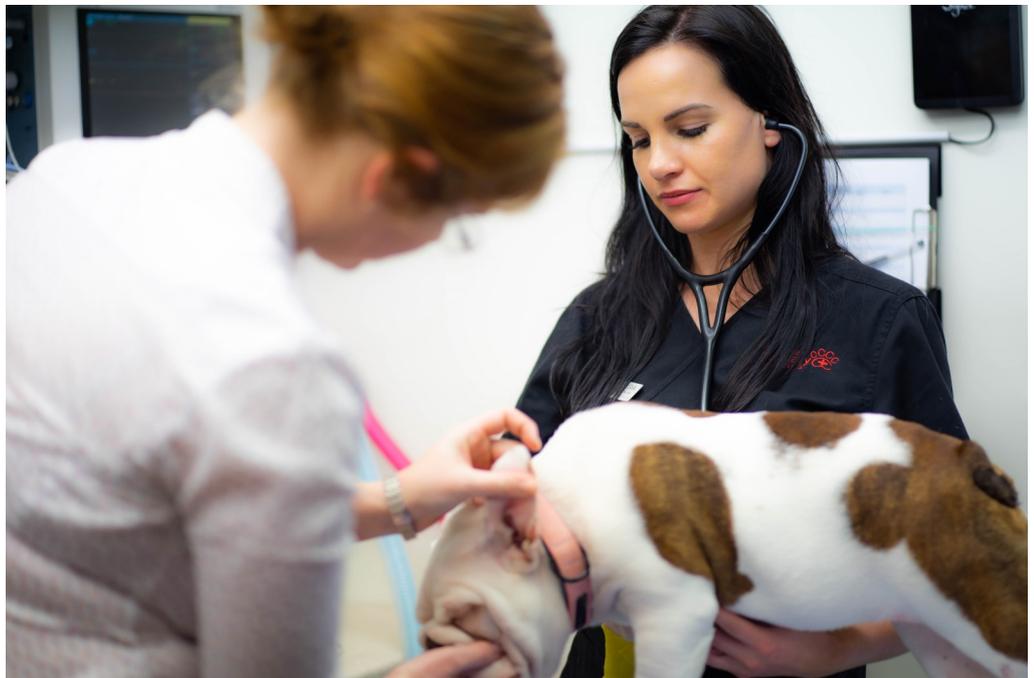
Fortunately nowadays, general anaesthetics are safer than ever, with anaesthetic agents having minimal impact on the body's vital functioning. Although minor, all anaesthesia can pose a risk to the body, and the more compromised the patient is, the greater the risk. A compromised patient may include the elderly, newborns, those with a chronic illness or severe injury. Luckily, there are many factors that can mitigate these risks and provide your pet with a smooth and safe anaesthesia.

## Risk management

Modern anaesthetic agents, new-age monitoring equipment and the experienced skill of our veterinarians and veterinary nurses are all factors that play a role in the safety of your pet's anaesthetic here at Fletcher Veterinary Practice.

For all our surgical patients, our staff will perform a pre-anaesthetic health check on your pet. This is when we will examine their vital signs and ask you important questions to ensure they are fit for an anaesthetic.

To ensure that blood pressure and hydration remain stable throughout the procedure, our general anaesthetic patients will be placed on intravenous fluids for the day. As anaesthetic can often



cause a decrease in these functions, prevention is better than trying to rectify the complication.

## Pre-Anaesthetic Blood Test

A blood test prior to surgery may detect underlying conditions that don't necessarily cause visible symptoms but can affect an animal's response to anaesthetic. This blood test can help us ensure your pet can properly process and eliminate an anaesthetic, confirming that their organs are functioning properly.

The top four reasons to test your pet before anaesthesia are:

1. Enjoy peace of mind: testing can significantly reduce medical risk.
2. Detect hidden illness: healthy pets may still hide symptoms of disease.
3. Reduce risks and consequences: we can alter the anaesthetic protocol according to their results.
4. Protect your pet's future health: we can have a baseline of your pet's past blood results to refer to at a later date.

In a young, healthy patient, the chance of picking up relevant information is extremely minor, however we have postponed anaesthetics because of these results in the past. Unless the vet states otherwise, this blood test is an optional addition to your pet's anaesthetic

protocol. You may choose to have this performed before any procedure.

## Intra and Post Anaesthetic Care

Thanks to the modern anaesthetic agents we use at our clinic, patients recover extremely quickly from their procedure, and are almost always walking out the door that very same day. We provide pre, intra and post surgical pain relief to ensure your pet is as comfortable as they can be.

Our experienced and skilled veterinary nurses are caring for them every step of the way during their stay in hospital. We monitor your pet throughout the entire operation, along with state-of-the-art machinery to test oxygen levels, blood pressure, carbon dioxide levels, heart rate, respiratory rate, temperature and more.

Our staff provide a complimentary service for every anaesthetic patient after their procedure. For 2 weeks after their operation, they may come in for examinations free of charge if it pertains to the surgery.

*If you have been wondering about an anaesthetic for your pet, we hope this article has provided a bit more reassurance. Please contact us on 49556670 if you would like to know more.*