



## Anaesthetic Information

We pride ourselves in offering the best possible care for your pet.

Modern general anaesthetics are very safe and the chance of encountering any problems is very low. These days there are many different ways to perform an anaesthetic and, necessarily, some of the more advanced methods cost more. While we would like to always work at the highest available levels, we understand that the cost of doing so may not be affordable for everyone. Please be assured that even our most cost conscious services more than comply with accepted industry standards.

Many factors affect anaesthetic risk and as such we modify what we recommend to you – we aim to offer the most appropriate anaesthetic protocols based on your pet’s life stage & medical history.

If you wish to follow our recommendations you have only to choose one of the anaesthetic protocols and sign the consent form as is, and return it to us on admitting your pet for surgery. You can opt for a standard protocol or upgrade to the best available. Alternatively we can customise the anaesthetic to suit your individual wishes.

We have provided this pamphlet so that you may better understand the procedures we wish to put into place and the benefits they offer your pet during anaesthesia.

<b>A Standard BASIC</b>	<b>B STANDARD + PABT</b>	<b>C OPTIMAL</b>
<b><u>Anaesthetic Protocol</u></b>	<b><u>Anaesthetic Protocol</u></b>	<b><u>Anaesthetic Protocol</u></b>
Basic Blood Screen (CBC, TP) IV Catheterisation IV Fluids (during surgery)  Respiratory & Temperature monitoring MINDRAY standard GA monitoring	Standard Pre-Anaesthetic Blood Test ( CBC + Chem 10 Pre anaesthetic panel) IV Catheterisation IV Fluids (during surgery)  Respiratory & Temperature monitoring MINDRAY standard GA monitoring	Full Pre-Anaesthetic Blood Test IV Catheterisation IV Fluids (Extended)  MINDRAY Intensive G.A. monitoring

### Laboratory/Diagnostic Testing

\*\*\*\*Highly recommended

Like you, our greatest concern is the well being of your pet. Before placing your pet under anaesthesia, we will perform a pre-anaesthetic examination. However, many conditions, *including congenital disorders of the liver, kidneys and blood*, are not detected unless blood testing is performed. Such tests are especially important before an anaesthetic.

For these reasons, we highly recommend comprehensive blood screening before all procedures requiring an anaesthetic. Up to 25% of puppies and kittens have changes outside of the normal ranges in their blood test. 4% have severe congenital disease and these are considered extreme anaesthetic risks. In older animals the early stages of serious disease can be picked up by these screening tests.

**Your pet's pre-med and anaesthetic technique will be adjusted according to the test results to maximise the safety and minimise the small risk that all anaesthetics have.**

### **A. Basic Blood Screen (CBC & TP)**

CBC checks for evidence of anaemia and other problems associated with blood cells. Total Protein checks that there is a normal amount of protein in the blood. If any of these parameters are abnormal the risk of an anaesthetic changes significantly.

***We believe that no pet should be given a general anaesthetic without checking this minimum database. Therefore we have included them in the cost of all of our anaesthetics.***

### **B. Standard Pre Anaesthetic Blood Panel**

Pre-anaesthetic blood panels are a mid range blood test designed to assess the function of the liver and kidneys, as well as the Protein, Blood Glucose and CBC. These provide more extensive information on the key organ systems that can be put under strain by anaesthesia. This Panel is a sensible option for all pets up to 6 - 8 years of age. This test routinely recommended for all anaesthetics. (Standard + PABT Protocol.)

### **C. General Health Blood Profile - Full Pre-Anaesthetic Blood Test**

This broad ranging test assesses factors not only important to the anaesthetic but that are indicators for a wide range of diseases. Included also in this panel is electrolyte monitoring which measures levels of Sodium, Potassium and Chloride.

These electrolytes are critical for keeping the body's fluid level balanced and are necessary to help muscles, the heart and other organs work properly. This panel is recommended for pets of all ages but especially for large breed dogs over 6 years old and cats and other dogs over 8 years old. Even if all results are normal this test gives us excellent BASE LINE results for later reference, in case your pet ever becomes sick. Included in the Optimal Protocol.

### **Intravenous Catheterisation**

- **Intravenous catheterisation**

By placing an IV catheter we have direct access to the vein. If there is an anaesthetic emergency it enables us to get life saving medication into the patient without delay. We believe it is so important that we catheterise all patients undergoing general anaesthesia.

- **IV fluids during Surgery**

During anaesthesia blood pressure tends to drop this has the potential to cause complications - by giving IV fluids during

surgery we are able to counter this drop in blood pressure. This is included in all gaseous anaesthetics.

- **C. IV fluids (extended)**

For more major procedures and for old or severely debilitated animals IV fluids are indicated before, during and after surgery.

### **Anaesthetic Monitoring**

#### **Advanced Electronic Anaesthetic Monitors**

- **Respiratory and Temperature Monitoring**

Respiratory Monitors provide a notification and alarm that enables us to easily monitor an animals breathing while it is under anaesthetic. By monitoring your pets body temperature we are able to manage any heat loss and so provide a safer anaesthetic and better recovery.

- **B. Standard General Anaesthetic Monitoring.**

We have available modern, comprehensive monitors designed to keep track of vital body systems. Particularly the Oxygen saturation of blood ("Pulse Ox") and the core body temperature. By monitoring these we can monitor the delivery of oxygenated blood to the bodies vital organs throughout the anaesthetic.

#### **C. Mindray Intensive General Anaesthetic Monitoring.**

Optimal protocols also include intensive monitoring and recording by an attendant veterinary nurse. We have the capacity to monitor blood pressure and your pet's ECG if indicated during the procedure.

### **Pain Relief**

Because pets can't ask for pain relief, and in fact tend to hide the signs of pain all animals undergoing surgery at our practice receive pain relief. Good pain relief has been proven to improve recovery time and reduce pain-related anxiety. In certain circumstances some animals may require additional pain relief. Where the veterinarian feels it is necessary associated with a particularly painful procedure they will prescribe additional pain relief. Some more sensitive animals require more pain relief even after routine surgery. If during the post-operative period you are worried that your pet is uncomfortable please contact the surgery so that we can discuss additional pain relief options.

### **Additional Procedures**

When an animal is having a general anaesthetic it can be the ideal time to consider having other things done. It can reduce the stress on the animal and can also save considerable amounts of money to do things all at once. Some of the common procedures we perform while pets are under anaesthetic include:

**Microchip.** From 1 July 2018 new laws in South Australia will require all dogs and cats to be microchipped by 12 weeks of age or upon sale, whichever is the sooner. Microchips are un-losable identification. A small rice grain sized chip (International Standard) that carries a unique number is placed under the skin of your pet. The number can be read via a scanner at Vet clinics, Councils and animal shelters. The organisations managing microchip databases

record the microchip number and link it to your contact details. It enables us to contact you quickly should your pet be found. We provide chip implantation, national lifetime database record keeping with Australasian Animal Registry, enter the microchip information onto Dogs and Cats online and an 'M' tattoo in right ear. (By law, the "M" tattoo is required to be done under anaesthetic or sedation.)

**Elizabethan Collars** prevent excessive licking, biting or chewing of wounds/sutures. Relatively inexpensive (especially when compared to the cost of restitching!) and you will be able to keep for later use – if required!

**Umbilical Hernia Repair.** An umbilical hernia is a small hole present in the umbilical area (belly button) that can allow fat or some of the abdominal organs to fall through creating a lump under the skin. A small hernia is nothing to be overly concerned about, but occasionally can become serious if internal organs become trapped and therefore damaged. It is best to have the hernia repaired before any complications arise. The total cost of a hernia repair done on it's own can be several hundred dollars – it is far more cost effective to have it repaired when your pet is already under an anaesthetic.

### **Retained Temporary Teeth / Tooth Removal.**

Sometimes the puppy canine teeth ('eye teeth') do not fall out when the adult tooth grows. If left in they can trap debris, develop heavy tartar and eventually lead to rotting of the affected teeth. Removal of retained teeth when your pet is already under anaesthetic could save you hundreds of dollars later on.

### **Vaccinations and Heartworm Prevention.**

Vaccinations and heartworm are important for Pets preventative health care. We do not recommend giving them at the time of an Anaesthetic. Speak with our team about giving these vaccines at your post-operative check.

### **FIV ( Feline Aids) Vaccination and Testing.**

Feline Aids is caused by infection with Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) which interferes with the cats immune system. It is incurable and eventually fatal. FIV is spread by contact ( most often being bitten by) with an infected cat. A recent study at an Adelaide Laboratory showed 18% of cats tested were positive to FIV.

Any cat that has outside access and therefore is at risk of fighting with another cat, or is potentially going into a boarding cattery should also be vaccinated against FIV. So that your cat/kitten's immune system is taught to recognise this disease, we will need to give 3 vaccinations over 6 weeks, and then annual boosters. If your cat is more than 6 months old we recommend having a blood test for FIV prior to vaccinating.

## **Preparing for Surgery**

**To maximise the safety and efficiency of your pets procedure please ensure :**

- **Your pet is fasted (no food) from 8pm the night before the surgery.**
- **Your pet has access to water until admission time.**
- **Please allow 10—20 minutes to admit your pet on the morning of surgery.**
- **Admission times are between 8.10am - 9.10am and are by appointment only.**