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Procedure for admitting your pet for an anaesthetic

Dogs

- No food after 6pm the evening before the operation (i.e. give your dog their dinner before 6pm) and no food in the morning before coming in.
- Avoid opportunities for scavenging, i.e. dustbins!!
- Allow free access to water as normal.
- Take for a short walk on the lead before dropping her/him into us, to allow for a toilet opportunity.
- We admit pets for operations between 8.30am and 9am unless otherwise arranged.
- Please phone in to check your pet's progress, usually between 2-3pm, again unless advised otherwise. At this point you will be given an appropriate collection time.

Cats

- As for dogs but we recommend keeping your cat in overnight the night before, to ensure that no food has been eaten and also so that your cat is around to be brought in for 8.30am.

Rabbits

Different from dogs and cats you do not need to fast your rabbit.

- Please bring in some of your rabbit's food with you so we can offer some of his/her regular food on waking up from anaesthetic.
- Also if your rabbit is used to drinking from a water dispenser not a bowl, please bring this with you.

Pre-Anaesthetic Blood Tests

At the time of booking your pet in for the anaesthetic, you will be asked whether you would like a pre-anaesthetic blood test for your pet.

- We have facilities to test your pet's blood before we perform the anaesthetic.
- This test gives us extra information regarding potential anaesthetic complications.
- There is an additional cost for this test and it is optional, but we conclude from previous experience, that it is a very good idea.
- It doesn't guarantee there will be no complications but we **strongly recommend that all pets undergoing general anaesthesia at this hospital have these tests carried out.**

The top 4 reasons to test your pet before anaesthesia

1. You deserve peace of mind. Testing can significantly reduce medical risk, helping to ensure your pet's health and safety.
2. Pets can't tell us when they don't feel well. A healthy looking pet may be hiding symptoms of a disease or ailment. For example, a pet can lose 75% of kidney function before showing any visible signs of illness. Pre-anaesthetic testing helps us to evaluate your pet's health up front, so we can avoid any problems related to anaesthesia.
3. Testing can reduce risk and consequences. If pre-anaesthetic test results are within normal ranges we can proceed with confidence, knowing the anaesthetic risk is minimized. On the other hand, if results are not within normal ranges, we can alter the anaesthetic regime, or take other precautions to safeguard your pet's health and reduce the risk of potential complications.
4. Testing can help protect your pet's future health. These tests provide the baseline results for your pet and become part of his/her medical record for future reference.

Why not consider getting your pet microchipped while under anaesthetic?

This is easier and cheaper to do while your pet is anaesthetised. It means that your pet can be identified easily and permanently. Should it be lost or stolen it makes recovery much more likely as all pet details are recorded on a national database. The details are there for life and therefore will give you added peace of mind.

If you would like your pet to be microchipped please let us know when you bring him/her in for surgery.

Remember no two cases are exactly alike, if in doubt please get in touch by phone (021) 489 3033 or email contact@animalcarehospital.ie