This sheet has been provided to help to answer some of the questions you may have regarding the administration of anaesthetics/sedations which will be administered to your pet. Your pet will have an appointment on the day of the operation with the nurse; if you have any further questions please ask the nurse at this time. You will be asked to read and sign a consent form.

**Why does my pet need an anaesthetic or sedation?**
As humans, where we are able to understand the reasons and procedures performed on us in a hospital or a dental practice. Animals do not understand why and what is happening to them. As a result, a procedure which sounds simple to us such as descaling and polishing teeth will require anaesthetics. Use of modern drugs gets safer as time moves forward, however like humans; there is always a small risk to the life of the animal. This is usually minimal but any concerns should be discussed with your vet.

**What you need to do prior to bringing your pet to us on the morning of the procedure:**

*Dogs and Cats*
Please ensure that you pet has its last meal before 6pm the night before the procedure and that no access to food can be reached during the night. For cats, this will mean keeping them indoors with a litter tray. They can have water all night long but please take this up in the morning. If you think it is a possibility that your pet may have had access to food, it is very important to let the nurse know this. Please take your dog for a short lead walk on the morning of the procedure so that he/she can empty their bowels and bladder.

*Rabbits, Guinea pigs and Small furries*
Please DO NOT starve these little ones and please allow food and water all night long. It is a good idea to bring a small amount of your pets normal food/favourite treats as we will want them to start eating immediately after their anaesthetic.

**The morning of the procedure:**
You will have been given an appointment time with the nurse for admission. If your pet is on any medication, please bring this along with him/her and please check with the surgery beforehand whether you should give this on the morning of the admission. During your time with the nurse you will be asked to read and sign a consent form for the procedure which explains that there is always a potential risk involved with any anaesthetic or sedative. Again, this risk is minimal and we have qualified nurses who are extremely well versed in the using these drugs and will monitor your animals throughout their procedure.

You will also be asked to leave a contact number for the day. It is important you are available on this number at all times during that day.

The consent form must be signed by the registered owner of the pet and must be over 18 years of age. If your require another person to authorise the procedure on your behalf, please let us know this in advance or a signed letter accompanying the nominated person explaining as such is needed please. You may require an estimate for the procedure, please be aware that is an estimate only and the further costs may be incurred should complications arise or the operation prove more complex than first thought.
Preoperative blood tests and intraoperative fluids.

A preoperative blood test will be offered to you on the morning of the procedure. This blood test is used to check organ function. Although your pet may appear very fit and well, we have been able to detect some disease conditions prior to anaesthetic. We would recommend any pet undergoing an anaesthetic to have this check beforehand and particularly those over the age of 7 years. This blood test can be performed in our in-house laboratory on the morning of the procedure.

Administering intravenous fluids (putting on a drip) is recommended for pets who have a history of kidney or liver disease, have been unwell leading up to the procedure or sometimes subsequent the preoperative blood results. Fluids help to maintain blood pressure and support to the organs during their stay with us.

During their stay with us

After your pet’s admission with the nurse, they are weighed, have a catheter placed in the theatre and their blood sample taken so it can be processed as soon as possible. They are then taken to their kennel and bed for the day. We have separate dog, cats and exotic wards. Once we have the blood results they are given their 'premedication', this contains a pain relief to start acting before any pain stimulus and an anti-anxiety/mild sedative to settle them and ease their transition to anaesthesia. Please be aware that your pet may have some hair shaved. This is to ensure clean and sterile catheter placement, blood sampling and surgical site.

Whilst having their procedure with the vet, our theatre nurse will be monitoring them throughout. They then are taken back to the ward to recover under the watchful eye of our kennel nurses.

You will be advised on admission when to call the surgery to get a progress report. This is usually between 2-3pm. Most patients go home the same day and you will be booked in with one of our nurses for discharge discussed where they will give you postoperative instructions and a postoperative care sheet.

We request payment in full at the time of treatment. If your animal is insured, please bring a claim form and stamped, addressed envelope with you on the day.

If you have any questions or concerns then please do not hesitate to contact the surgery.