



Pre-anaesthetic blood testing

At Hampton Park Vets, we believe that every patient undergoing a general anaesthetic must have:

A full physical examination.

An intravenous catheter.

The most up to date anaesthetic drugs.

A nurse who is dedicated to monitoring the anaesthetic throughout the procedure.

Electrical monitoring (may include pulse oximetry, ECG, blood pressure monitoring - depending on the individual case).

These are our minimum requirements to ensure an acceptable level of safety in the majority of patients. They are included in the cost of all routine neutering operations and in the standard anaesthetic fee for all other procedures.

A physical examination can detect a number of health problems (such as heart murmurs, respiratory difficulties, dehydration). However, there are some abnormalities that can only be identified by further testing.

This is usually done on the morning of the planned procedure and results are available within 30 minutes. They are useful for the majority of patients because they provide:

Immediate information regarding kidney function, evidence of liver damage, anaemia and dehydration. It is important for us to know if these problems exist in order to make the anaesthetic process as safe as possible. The results give us specific guidance as to what type of

fluid therapy is appropriate during the procedure and if any additional factors need to be considered.

Indications of other health problems or diseases which can show up on blood tests prior to pets developing physical symptoms. This can allow early diagnosis and more effective treatment for certain conditions.

A baseline of normal results for healthy individuals. This can be used for ongoing health monitoring.

If there are any specific concerns regarding the health of your pet then the vet can discuss other blood tests as appropriate.

Intravenous Fluid Therapy

All anaesthetic drugs will affect the body in a number of different ways. One of these effects is to predispose patients to low blood pressure, which can reduce the supply of blood and oxygen to the major organs (liver, kidney, heart, brain). Although most healthy animals can adapt to these changes, in some patients they will cause a problem.

The most effective way to prevent or treat this problem is to administer fluids throughout the anaesthetic.

Although certain patients are most at risk of developing low blood pressure during anaesthetics, (e.g. senior pets, those suffering from heart or kidney disease) all animals would benefit from the increased safety of fluid therapy.

- Helping to prevent **low blood pressure** and **shock** during the anaesthetic procedure
- Replacing **blood** or other **fluid** losses
- Preventing **dehydration** during and after the procedure
- Providing an access route for **emergency drugs** should complications arise
- **Speeding** recovery

If you have any questions about the information in this leaflet please feel free to call us.

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