

Post-Sedation/Anesthesia Instructions for your Pet

Dermatology Service



VETERINARY
MEDICAL CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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What are the potential sedation/anesthesia risks for my pet?

Like any medical procedure, anesthesia has potential risks. Sedation tends to have fewer risks compared to general anesthesia. Variations in risks occur from pet to pet due to breed, age, general health, fat and metabolism, just as they do in people. Potential risks can go from minor problems, such as mild vomiting, to life-threatening problems such as anaphylactic shock, cardiac arrest, stroke and death. Certain medical conditions such as heart, liver or kidney disease, diabetes mellitus, anemia, and dehydration will increase the risk of having an anesthetic complication. However, please know that the overall anesthesia risks for pets are generally low and we have a wonderful trained dermatology staff and certified anesthesiology team that monitor our patients very closely to minimize and troubleshoot any complications.

Are there things that can be done to minimize the risks?

Pre-anesthetic physical examination, blood and urine tests may detect clinical and sub-clinical problems. If there are concerns for heart or respiratory disease, chest radiographic and cardiological consultation might be needed. Fasting prior to anesthesia is required to prevent complications.

How long will it take my pet to recover from anesthesia? What should I expect at home?

With today's anesthetics, many of which are reversible, your pet should be almost completely normal by the time of discharge. Your pet may be sleepy or tired, may not act like him/herself, may vocalize in unusual ways, and may not recognize familiar surroundings, people or other animals for 12-24 hours after anesthesia. Your pet may also exhibit a few episodes of vomiting, soft stool or diarrhea. Be aware that overweight, older and sick animals may have delayed recoveries. If your pet appears to be unusually sluggish, you cannot arouse him/her easily, or your pet shows inappetence, vomiting and diarrhea for longer than 24 hours, please contact our hospital immediately to receive specific advice.

How should I care for my pet during the next 24 hours of recovery?

1. Keep your pet resting in a quiet place, away from household activities.
2. Avoid exercise and access to stairs and furniture to prevent falling accidents.
3. Keep your pet in a warm, though not overly hot room, as the body temperature is usually low.
4. You can feed your pet his/her regular food as long as it is not too fatty or rich. Feed smaller meals than usual; e.g. feed the first meal at 1/4 to 1/2 the usual amount. Offer the second 1/4 to 1/2 meal 2-8 hours later.
5. By the next day you may feed normally if your pet is acting normal.
6. Fresh and clean water should be available to your pet at all times.
7. Keep young children away from your pet. Unexpected behaviors such as biting can occur.

*If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us directly at the **Dermatology Service** at **612-624-4831** or **vetderm@umn.edu**. For after hours, urgent or emergency needs please call **612-626-8387**.*

Thank you for your trust in us with the care of your precious companion.