DROP-OFF PREPARATION

Preparing for Your Surgery or Dental Drop-Off

> This page covers what to expect when dropping your pet off for surgery or a dental procedure, including fasting, timing, and what's different depending on the type of procedure. Please also see our general surgery information for anesthesia risks and safety measures, and the dental page if applicable.

Drop-Off Basics

The night before and morning of:

- Please do not feed your pet after midnight the night before your appointment (except in rabbits and pocket pets — see below for details). Water is fine until drop-off time.
- Please ensure your dog has urinated and defecated the morning of surgery, before dropping them off with us.
- You should have already received a document outlining the risks of general anesthesia and surgery — please read this ahead of time if you haven't already. See our general surgery information page for more detail. You'll be asked to sign a consent form confirming you've read and understood this document.

At drop-off, here's what to expect, in order:

1. **Arrive at your assigned time**
   Drop-off windows are 8:00–8:30am Monday to Friday, or 9:00–9:30am on Saturday and Sunday. We assign a specific time within that window to stagger intakes and minimize wait times — please arrive at the time you've been given rather than the start of the window.

2. **Health history questions**
   We'll ask a series of questions about your pet's health history — please allow some time for this. You can answer these ahead of time using our history questionnaire to help streamline things when you arrive.

3. **Signing the consent form**
   We'll need you to sign a consent form authorizing treatment for your pet. You can do this at drop-off, or fill it out in advance to help streamline things — see the surgery/anesthesia consent form or the dental consent form, depending on your pet's procedure.

Feeding While Your Pet Is With Us

While your pet is here, they may be fed a Royal Canin Gastro diet after their procedure. If your pet requires a special diet, please bring a small amount with you at check-in so we can offer this once they wake up. Unfortunately, we're not able to accept raw food, as we can't store it in our medication fridge.

SPECIFIC TO YOUR PET'S PROCEDURE

The sections below only apply if relevant to your pet's procedure — feel free to skip ahead to whichever applies, or skip past all of them if none do.

Spay / Neuter

- If you have a dog under 10kg coming in for a spay or neuter, please send us photos of their canine teeth from both sides ahead of time, or book a technician appointment beforehand, so we can check for any retained baby teeth.
- If a veterinarian has previously mentioned undescended testicles, please call us to book a check with a technician to confirm they've descended prior to your pet's neuter date.

Orthopedic Surgery

- If your pet is currently on Metacam/meloxicam, please stop this medication 5 days prior to the surgical date.
- If your pet is coming in for a TPLO procedure, please make sure you've arranged the post-operative rehabilitation appointments ahead of time. Contact information for this will be included in the email we send you.

Dental Procedures

- If you'd like pre-anesthetic bloodwork done, this must be arranged in advance as a technician appointment — we cannot offer same-day bloodwork for dentals except in very limited circumstances.

⚠ Dental cost estimates can change based on what's found under anesthesia and on X-rays. You'll need to be reachable by phone on the day of your pet's dental in case we need to discuss findings or get your consent before proceeding with any unanticipated work.

Rabbits and Pocket Pets

⚠ **This is the opposite of the fasting rule for dogs and cats:** rabbits and pocket pets should have food and water right up until drop-off time. Please do not fast them. Please also bring some food along for post-operative feeding while they're in hospital.

APPLIES TO ALL PROCEDURES

When Will My Pet Be Ready for Pick-Up?

This is a harder question to answer than you might think. On an average day we perform 6–12 surgeries, and the order we do them in is a complex decision made the morning of surgery, after the vet has examined everyone.

- A patient with a bad injury or serious issue may need to go first.
- A complicated surgery, like a fracture repair, may need a long recovery period and so is done earlier in the day.
- Pets whose owners have travelled a long distance, or come from a Gulf Island, may be prioritized.
- A pet who is very distressed or barking constantly may be finished quickly to reduce their stress.
- Surgery patients who also need dental work may need access to the dental suite, which can affect timing if it's in use.
- There's individual variation too — some pets wake up quickly from anesthesia, others take hours.

Every day, a pet will be first and a pet will be last. **We ask for your trust and patience as we make the best decisions we can.** We'll call you when your pet is ready for pick-up.

Add a Photo to Your Pet's Profile

Feel free to email us your favourite photo of your pet at hello@royalbayvet.ca so we can add it to their patient profile!

If anything about your appointment looks different than you were expecting, or you're unable to make it, please call us as soon as possible so we can make sure we're on the same page or make other arrangements if needed.

Questions Before Drop-Off?

If anything about your appointment isn't clear, or your pet's situation has changed since booking, please reach out before your visit.

ROYAL BAY VETERINARY CLINIC

During clinic hours

250-940-4646

hello@royalbayvet.ca

AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCIES

Central Victoria Veterinary Hospital
250-475-2495
760 Roderick St

WAVES Emergency
778-432-4322
947 Langford Parkway