



Anaesthesia at Eye Vet **Frequently Asked Questions**

Why does my pet need an anaesthetic or sedation?

- Many procedures require your pet to remain quiet and still for a prolonged period of time which requires either sedation or an anaesthetic in some cases.
- Some diagnostic procedures may be uncomfortable due to positioning or the length of the procedure and your pet will require sedation to enhance their comfort and will benefit from the addition of some pain relief.

What will happen to my pet before the anaesthetic is administered?

- Your pet will be examined by the veterinary surgeon/anaesthetist prior to administering the premedication drugs.
- Your pet will be weighed to allow accurate drug calculations and dosing.
- A catheter will be placed into a vein in your pet's leg to allow administration of the anaesthetic and pain relief and other necessary drugs.
- Your pet will be settled into a comfortable and warm kennel for around 30-45 minutes after their premedication before their anaesthetic is started.

What drugs are administered as part of premedication?

- A sedative like drug to help calm your pet and make their time in the hospital as stress free as possible.
- Pain relief will be given if your pet is having a surgical procedure or any procedure where pain is anticipated.
- The premedication drugs are allowed a period of around 30-45 minutes for them to have their full effect and ensure the pet's anaesthetic is as stable as possible.

What happens when the anaesthetic is administered?

- The anaesthetic is administered through a cannula placed into a vein in your pet's leg. You will notice a clip patch on their leg when you collect them.
- Your pet will then become unconscious allowing placement of a tube into your pet's windpipe for the maintenance anaesthetic agent to be administered as a gas in oxygen.
- Your pet will breathe spontaneously through this tube during the entire anaesthetic period.

How is my pet monitored during anaesthesia?

- A veterinary nurse will be dedicated to monitor your pet's vital parameters during their anaesthetic.



- When an anaesthetist is present they will supervise the anaesthetic period and in certain cases (sick or difficult cases) they will monitor the entire anaesthetic period.
- Your pet will have their pulse and breathing rates monitored and we will use a computerised, electronic monitor to provide additional information to make the anaesthetic as safe as possible.

What happens during recovery from anaesthesia?

- At the end of the procedure the gaseous anaesthetic is discontinued and oxygen administration continued until your pet starts to regain consciousness.
- Once your pet is able to swallow the tube is removed from their windpipe.
- A nurse will remain with your pet until they can sit comfortably and are completely recovered.

When will I be allowed to come and collect my pet?

- You will be asked to come and collect your pet once they have completely recovered from their sedation or anaesthetic.
- If your pet has only had sedation they are likely to be able to go home shortly after their sedation.
- If your pet has had a general anaesthetic we will more than likely keep them for continued monitoring for several hours afterwards.

Should I do anything specific with my pet overnight after their anaesthetic?

- Your pet may appear sleepy when you get them home. This is completely normal (think how you have felt if you have ever had an anaesthetic).
- You may feed your pet half of their normal meal in the evening provided they appear completely awake.
- If your pet is diabetic the nurse on discharge will discuss with you management of their diabetes and feeding.
- If you have any concerns about your pet at any time then please contact either Eye Vet or your own veterinary surgeon for advice.