A GUIDE FOR PET PARENTS

Preparing for your pet's surgery

Surgery day is coming up. This guide walks you through how to get your pet ready so the procedure goes safely. Read it all the way through, and call us if anything is unclear.



01

BEFORE SURGERY

Bloodwork

Every pet needs current bloodwork on file before surgery, completed and reviewed **within 60 days** of the procedure. It tells us how your pet's body is doing and helps us lower the risks that come with anesthesia. If your pet hasn't had this done yet, call us to get it scheduled.

02

THE NIGHT BEFORE

Feeding

Timing your pet's meals correctly matters more than you'd think. There are two things we're trying to avoid.

AN EMPTY STOMACH FOR TOO LONG

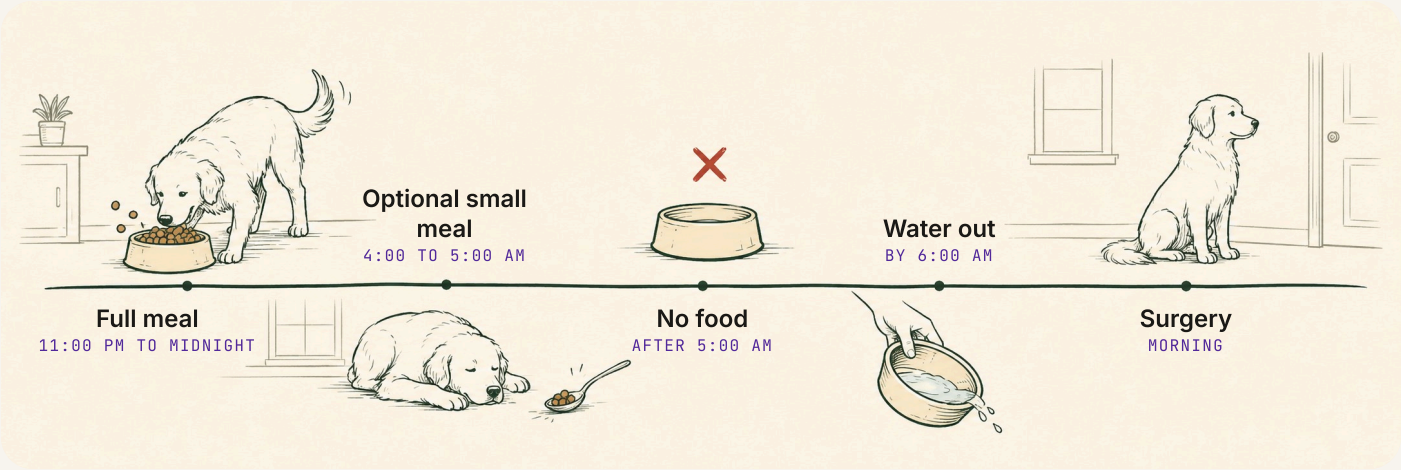
More than 10 to 12 hours can let acid back up and irritate the esophagus.

FOOD STILL IN THE STOMACH

During anesthesia it can come back up and get into the lungs. Both are serious.

Here's how to time it

- ✓ Feed a full meal between **11:00 pm and midnight**.
- ✓ If you can't feed that late, give **1 tablespoon** of food between **4:00 and 5:00 am** instead. Nothing after 5:00 am.
- ✓ Water can stay out overnight unless we've told you otherwise. **Take it away by 6:00 am.**



03

THE MORNING OF

Medications

We've sent you home with two. Follow these closely.

Cerenia ANTI-NAUSEA

- Give it **the evening before surgery**, around 10:00 to 11:00 pm.
- **Do not** give it with food.
- It helps prevent nausea, vomiting, and reflux during and after anesthesia.

Pain medication

- Start **as directed by your veterinarian**.
- Follow the label exactly.
- Call us with any questions about dose or timing.

04

AFTER SURGERY

Heading home

We'll call you once your pet is out and recovering, and we'll give you a pick-up time then. Make sure we have a number that reaches you.

Most pets head home between **3:00 and 5:00 pm**, once they're fully awake.

Discharge instructions come in a separate document, handed to you before surgery. Anything about your pet's care, just ask.

We're glad to be the ones taking care of your pet.

If you have questions or need to change your appointment, call us at (210) 680-5243.

THANK YOU FOR TRUSTING US WITH YOUR PET