

Bennett Creek Animal Hospital

22416 Frederick Road
Clarksburg, MD 20871
301-515-8800

Dear _____ ,

Your pet has been scheduled for _____ on _____. We know that leaving your pet in the hospital can be a little bit scary. We hope that informing you fully of what will happen during the day will help to alleviate any anxiety you may have.

All anesthesia/dentistry/surgery patients should be dropped off between 7:00 am and 8:00 am. If you need to meet with the doctor (new pets and/or anyone who has questions or concerns), please plan to come between 9:00 am and 9:30 am. Your pet should not have food after 9:00 pm the previous night; please pick up the water bowl first thing in the morning.

After being admitted to the hospital we do our best to make your pet very comfortable. Each animal is checked over by our full time surgery technician and placed in a kennel with soft, warm bedding. Dogs receive a pre-operative medication which makes them feel woozy and relaxed. Cats have slightly different anesthetic protocol so they don't usually receive this particular medication. Of course, if your pet is anxious or upset, his/her needs will be addressed individually by the doctor.

Outpatient (pets going home same day) procedures are done first so the animal can recover from anesthesia in time for discharge in the late afternoon or evening. Inpatients (those staying overnight) are done next. The surgery schedule usually runs all day. All patients recover from anesthesia in our central treatment room under the watchful eyes of both doctors and staff. When your pet is awake, he/she is put back to bed and observation is continued. Pain medication is administered by the doctor if needed.

The doctor will call you when your pet's procedure has been completed. Occasionally a very busy day can delay phone calls. Please call after 4:30 pm for a progress report if we haven't had the opportunity to contact you.

Pets scheduled to go home the same day may begin food and water in small quantities 1-2 hour after arriving home (or as directed in your discharge instructions). Those animals staying overnight in the hospital generally have had a more involved procedure. We will give them water in the late evening. Food is started again the following mornings. (Our staff serves a delicious breakfast!)

There is a doctor in the hospital until all the patients have recovered from anesthesia. A trained technician is often on duty later and monitors your pet's vital signs regularly. The technician will contact the doctor if your pet has any discomfort or difficulty.

The morning following surgery your pet will be examined by a doctor. Please call after 9:30 am to confirm that your pet is ready for discharge. We are available for pet pick-up until 7:00 pm weeknights and 12:00 pm on Saturday. You will receive written discharge instructions detailing aftercare. Add some homemade TLC and your pet should be back to normal soon.

We hope this information will be helpful. We are happy to answer any further questions you might have.