



## Surgery Admission Information

### Small Furrries

Your rabbit, chinchilla, or guinea pig is scheduled to have anesthesia for surgery or a dental procedure at Adana Veterinary Clinic. We ask that you read the following 2 pages that include important safety information for you to prepare your pet for the anesthetic procedure. Page 2 includes details specifically related to post-op care and the importance of food intake.

**To hold a procedure time for your pet a deposit of \$100 (minimum) is required. Once that is paid the appointment time is confirmed. If you are unable to keep the appointment and need to reschedule, we request a minimum of 4 full business days notice or your deposit will be lost.**

**Food and water:** Small, furry exotic pets should not be fasted prior to anesthesia, please allow your pet to have access to food and water as usual. **Important:** Bring a small supply of hay, favorite greens, and pellets to be offered once she or he has recovered from anesthesia, along with his/her usual water bottle or bowl.

**Medications:** Unless instructed otherwise, please give any prescribed medication the morning of the procedure.

**When to bring your pet:** We admit patients at a specific time between 8 and 8:30 a.m. Please be prompt and arrive at the time reserved for your pet as we need to stay on time for our planned procedures. If you have signed the Consent Form ahead it will speed up the admission process. Any questions or options must be decided upon at least 2 weeks ahead during a phone conversation with a member of our technical staff.

**While your pet is here:** After pre-anesthetic exam is complete your pet will be given a pre-medication in preparation for surgery. This usually includes a mild sedative and pain medication. Later your pet will be anesthetized using isoflurane gas. We optimize keeping small, furry exotics warm and safe throughout the period, monitoring vitals the entire time. Technicians also will monitor your pet closely through recovery, someone will call or text you as soon as the patient is stable. Please keep in mind that we usually have several surgeries in a morning and your pet may be the first or the last on the schedule that day.

**When to call:** Most procedures are completed by 1 p.m. If you have not heard from us, feel free to call between 1 and 2 p.m. at 607-844-4042. Patients are able to go home the same day (if this is not expected, you will be notified at the admission). The reception will set up a 10 minute discharge appointment with you at the time of admission (usually between 3p.m. and 5 p.m.).

**Post-op care:** It is very important that small furrries begin to eat shortly after recovering from anesthesia. If this does not occur, staff will syringe feed him/her to stimulate appetite. Please refer to page 2 ahead to be familiar with the use of Critical care. Discharge instructions will be provided and sent home at the time of discharge. Our staff will answer any questions you may have – please feel free to ask.

If you have questions after your pet is home, please call our regular number, 607-844-4042.

# About anesthesia for small, furry exotics at Adana

Advances in anesthesia and surgery make most procedures very safe. At Adana we take great pride in our modern, state-of-the-art anesthesia delivery system and our level of monitoring. We will monitor many crucial parameters during anesthesia (Heart rate/pulse, respiration, oxygen content of the blood, body temperature, and blood pressure). For rabbits, chinchillas, and guinea pigs anesthesia is more challenging as we need to have very high focus on avoiding or decreasing stress; as well as on keeping them nice and warm throughout.

## **Pre-Anesthetic Testing**

Pre-anesthetic blood tests to evaluate organ function prior to having your pet undergo anesthesia is not performed as often as in our cats and dogs. It may require sedation and will need to be performed 10-14 days before anesthesia. We leave it as an optional item for small, healthy furries undergoing routine procedures. A Small Mammal Profile has to be shipped to an out-of-state laboratory, and requires planning ahead. Please call our staff to schedule a tech. appt. for a blood draw if interested in this.

## **Fluid support**

The placement of an IV catheter prior to an anesthetic procedure provides a challenge and is very stressful to most small furries. As long as the pet is healthy, we typically opt to provide a dose of fluids given under the skin (subcutaneously) to support the pet in recovery. If the pet is not healthy and we deem an IV catheter is more beneficial, this will have been discussed by the doctor during the pet's exam.

# Information about syringe feeding Critical Care

It is very important that small furries begin to eat shortly after recovering from anesthesia. If this does not occur, staff will syringe feed him/her to stimulate appetite using Oxbow Critical Care. This product contains all the essential nutrients of a complete diet, as well as high-fiber timothy hay to support proper gut physiology and digestion. We will also demonstrate how to continue this at home at the time of discharge. A special feeding syringe and the remainder of the bag of Oxbow Critical Care opened for feeding earlier in the day will go home with you.

We recommend feeding small, frequent meals of mixed food every 2-4 hours for the first 24 hours or until your pet eats well by itself.

Directions for mixing: Critical Care should be mixed fresh for each feeding, Mix 1 part Critical Care - Herbivore® with 2 parts warm water to the desired consistency. The volume of water may be adjusted depending on feeding method.

Prepare fresh at each feeding; discard after 24 hours. Volume to use: Typically 1.5 tbsp of dry Critical care per lb. of bodyweight per 24 hours for rabbits, Guinea pigs, chinchillas and the like.

If you have questions after your pet is home, please call our regular number,  
607-844-4042.