

Intravenous Catheter and Fluid Support

Anesthesia is necessary to perform surgery, dental cleaning, and some diagnostic procedures in pets. However, anesthesia prevents the body from reacting normally to potentially life-threatening events. It is very important to carefully monitor and support animals during the anesthetic state to prevent complications such as shock, low blood pressure, decreased oxygenation, cardiac arrhythmias, and low body temperature. Here at Willow Pet Hospital, we monitor body temperature, electrocardiogram (ECG), heart and respiration rates, blood pressure, oxygenation, and carbon dioxide levels during general anesthesia. If any changes are noted in the values, we can adjust anesthesia and oxygen, provide heat, or administer medications if necessary. Unfortunately, we are not always able to counteract **low blood pressure** which is very commonly associated with anesthesia.

Low blood pressure leads to decreased blood flow to all parts of the body. If this occurs for any length of time, damage can occur to the tissues that are most reliant on blood flow- kidneys, heart, brain, etc. The easiest way to counteract low blood pressure is to provide intravenous fluids.

An IV catheter and fluid support is recommended for ALL patients undergoing anesthesia, and is required for older patients or any patients with a medical history indicating the need.

There are three benefits to placing an intravenous catheter and administrating fluids during surgery:

- 1) With a catheter in place, we have immediate access to the vein and can administer life saving medications quickly if needed.
- 2) Fluids support blood pressure and maintain blood flow to all tissues – decreasing risks for surgical and post operative complications.
- 3) Fluids flush the body and help the animal recover from anesthesia faster.

I have read the above information and

- Yes**, I elect IV catheter placement and fluid support as recommended (\$78.80)
- No, I decline IV catheter/fluid support and understand the risks of this decision.

Your Pet's Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____