

On to the planning phase for your pet's surgery with Direct Veterinary Surgery LLC



OUTPATIENT SURGERY CAN BE SAFER FOR YOUR PET AND LESS EXPENSIVE FOR YOU.

Advances in general anesthesia and surgical techniques have brought us to a time when outpatient surgery is considered a norm—for humans and pets. *Direct Veterinary Surgery* offers outpatient surgery. What this means for you is that you are more directly managing your pet's immediate postoperative experience. Your pet may be groggy and disoriented on their pain medications; they may have a bandage on that makes walking difficult; they may make your days very busy and your nights sleepless for 24-72 hours. When you choose outpatient surgery with *Direct Veterinary Surgery*, you accept this likelihood. The majority of the time, your pet is less stressed, more comfortable and more rested when they spend their first few post-surgical days with you versus spending them in a busy ICU/critical care hospital.

For those less frequent but *medically more demanding* times, having your pet cared for postoperatively in a critical care, 24-hr facility is a wise choice. This choice requires you to transport your pet to the appropriate facility, work with additional veterinary professionals, and accept a higher overall cost. When this likelihood is known ahead of time, the *Direct Veterinary Surgery* team will prepare you with details. *We are not always able to predict this need*, so you may learn of this recommendation during or after surgery itself and will need to adjust your planning.

SURGERY AND ANESTHESIA ARE INHERENTLY DANGEROUS—BOTH CAN RESULT IN COMPLICATIONS OR DEATH.

Surgery is a very good diagnostic tool and treatment option—saving lives, saving limbs, preserving or enhancing your pet's quality of life. As veterinary professionals, we plan for the worst and actively seek the best! We talk more about positive outcomes because we all prefer those, but negative outcomes are part of the medical management of the living body—we cannot eliminate all complications. You need to know that. Even though surgical complications are concerning, doing “nothing” can be just as dangerous, with complications and death as a result. So we move forward when appropriate—balancing the risks and benefits of doing something versus nothing.

WHEN COMPLICATIONS HAPPEN—AND THEY WILL—WE RARELY KNOW, OR *EVEN CAN KNOW*, THE “TRUTH”.

In my experience, *death related to anesthesia and surgery* is extremely rare. Surgical complications will range from minor/transient to serious/re-operate. We emphasize these potential surgical complications in the planning discussions because all players participate in their generation, from the pet... to the owner... to the veterinary staff... to the primary care veterinarian... to the surgeon. I am humble enough to know that they *may* be due to my actions, and experienced enough to know that they *may not*. When they happen, our approach is to focus on how to make the pet better—to come close to or to meet our original surgical goal. When death happens, our hope is to provide as much medical information and comfort as we can to family members who are suffering the loss. As a medical professional with a strong moral compass, I take complications very seriously. I actively evaluate things I can control, with the goal of making any complications rare. As mentioned above, surgery is a shared responsibility amongst all players; financial considerations will remain a shared responsibility as well as we work through any complications.

****Please review the specific handouts**

for your pet's injury/illness and the related postoperative instructions,

found at www.directvetsurg.com