

GLENDALE

VETERINARY HOSPITAL

ALL KINDS OF CARE FOR ALL KINDS OF PETS

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Why We Recommend Pre-Anesthetic Testing Before Your Pet's Surgery : A Glendale Perspective

When your pet requires surgery, whether it be a routine ovariohysterectomy (spay) or castration, a dental cleaning, or something unexpected due to an emergency, they all share a common theme.....general anesthesia. The Glendale Team strives to provide a tailored anesthetic plan for your pet. Our Registered Veterinary Technicians Susan, Denise and Lucy evaluate your pet prior to surgery noting heart rate and rhythm, respirations and lung sounds, pulse quality, temperature, demeanour or any presenting health concerns that may be affected by anesthesia. Our technicians and veterinarians can gather all of this information by performing a physical exam, but what they cannot always determine from that exam is the internal health of your pet. This is why we recommend bloodwork prior to anesthesia. Pre-anesthetic blood testing will cost you a little extra, but it can save your pet's life and can reduce the risk of anesthetic complications. In the end, it's all about peace of mind and ensuring the future health of your pet.

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This blood test allows veterinarians to assess your pet's overall health via a quick and noninvasive assessment of the major organ systems of the body. The bloodwork evaluates the red blood cells for anemia and white blood cells for potential infection. The bloodwork also evaluates the kidney, liver, and pancreas function and tests the electrolytes and glucose levels as well. All of these indicators can show us signs of disease ranging from a decrease in organ function or organ disease or failure, to infection, to diabetes and cancer. If there is what we call 'subclinical disease', where the pet is not yet showing any symptoms of the disease, it is very likely that anesthesia could put their body into active disease. When doing this bloodwork, we have found numerous cases of disease that have surprised the owner and may have led to serious complications had we proceeded with anesthesia.

So, what do the veterinarians at Glendale do when confronted with an unexpected health condition? First, you can expect a phone call from us detailing the concern and what their recommendations are. If the condition is mild and the procedure is important to the pet's well being, they may proceed but alter the original anesthetic and surgery plan. If the condition is more severe, the Glendale Veterinarians will likely recommend cancelling the surgery and possibly pursuing further diagnostics.

What happens if the bloodwork is normal? Fantastic news! We are good to go ahead with your pet's surgery. This information also gives us a baseline of values of what is normal for your pet. We will be able to reference these values in the future to spot any changes early.

If you have any questions about pre-anesthetic bloodwork, please do not hesitate to ask one of our technicians!

A Glendale Perspective

For more information please call the staff at Glendale Veterinary Hospital.