

# Anesthesia



Many families are concerned about the risks of anesthesia and these are valid concerns. Anesthetics are powerful drugs that affect several organ systems, including the brain, heart, kidneys, and liver.

At Crookston Pet Clinic we take several precautions to minimize the impact anesthetics have on our patients and reduce the risk of harmful reactions.

All patients are given a complete physical examination prior to surgery. This will help uncover any previously diagnosed conditions and allow us to score their pain level to better customize medication needed before, during, and after their procedure. Pre-anesthetic blood testing is done to evaluate organ function that cannot be assessed by the physical exam. These tests include evaluation of:

- Kidney function
- Liver function
- Blood Sugar
- Electrolytes (sodium, potassium, and chloride)
- Feline leukemia/Feline Immunodeficiency test for cats if they have not been tested (optional)
- Heartworm test for dogs

Combinations of medications are used to reduce the dosages required of any one medication. It also reduces the stress in your pet and makes them more comfortable. All patients are given fluids intravenously to support the circulatory system during anesthesia as dehydration is a major risk factor in the development of hypotension (low blood pressure) during anesthesia and surgery.

We offer an advanced monitoring system that assess the following areas:

- ECG (electrocardiogram) - electrical activity in the heart
- Blood pressure, - heart and blood vessel tone
- Body temperature - circulation and heat loss
- Oxygen and carbon dioxide levels - lung and circulatory system function
- Respiratory rate - depth of anesthesia

We do pre-anesthetic blood testing and advanced monitoring for the same reason that your doctor would do testing and monitoring if you were undergoing anesthesia.

The risks of anesthesia include, but are not limited to, kidney failure, brain injury, and death. While it is not possible to eliminate all of the risk associated with anesthesia, we make every effort to minimize the possibility of complications. We recommend elective procedures that require anesthesia because we strongly believe they enhance the length and quality of our patients' lives. Please indicate your choices on the consent form and bring the signed consent with you on the day of surgery.