

ARGUELLO PET HOSPITAL

Why we recommend pre-anesthetic blood work and IV catheter with anesthetic procedures.

Pre-anesthetic blood work helps us identify potential dysfunction of the liver or kidneys, which are primary organs involved with the metabolism of anesthetic agents (both injectable and inhalant). We also can identify underlying anemia, infection/inflammation or low platelet counts (which are crucial to blood clotting) and address these concerns prior to anesthesia to minimize the risk associated with surgery and anesthesia. If significant abnormalities are found in pre-anesthetic blood work, further testing will be recommended prior to undergoing anesthesia. Charges for blood panels are available from your Doctor or Staff.

An intravenous (IV) catheter is recommended in all anesthetized animals because of the following concerns: 1) an emergency situation where a potentially fatal arrhythmia or hypotension (low blood pressure) develops; rapid access to emergency drugs and IV fluids is critical; 2) hypotension; IV fluids can be pushed/bolused and administered to maintain normal blood pressure and therefore keep vital organs adequately supplied with oxygen; 3) pain management; constant rate infusions administered through a fluid line can be significant in minimizing pain following certain surgical and dental procedures. The charges for the IV catheter (recommended for any short anesthetic procedure) and IV catheter and fluids (recommended for dentals, spays and neuters) are available from your Doctor or Staff.