

Branch's Veterinary Clinic
205 Belmont Ave
Tifton, GA. 31794

Anesthesia/Surgery Consent Form

Owner Name: _____ Patient Name: _____

Procedure: _____ Date: ___/___/___

****What phone number can we reach you at today??** _____
(It is important we reach you in case of an emergency...or we treat as minimally necessary at your expense)

****If your pet is in heat, pregnant or has a retained testicle, ADDITIONAL FEES WILL APPLY!!**

1. **Pre-anesthetic Bloodwork** (recommended for all ages, especially if your pet is > 7 years old)
This blood work consists of a PCV/TP or CBC & chemistry panel (for white/red blood cells & to check kidney & liver function). This test will help us identify underlying health issues that may influence your pets' ability to recover from anesthesia & will give us a baseline in the case of any future illness.
There is an additional charge of \$88.00 for animals < 7 years & \$127 for animals > 7 years.

I DO DO NOT want pre-anesthetic bloodwork today (Please Initial)

2. **IV Fluids** (recommended for all animals, **required for animals > 8 years of age & animals undergoing lengthy procedures**)
An IV catheter is placed in ALL patients undergoing anesthesia. Low blood pressure is very common during all anesthetic episodes & giving IV fluids will help protect your pet from these effects. **If your pet has trouble under anesthesia, IV fluids WILL be administered & you WILL be charged for this service because the safety of your pet is priority. There is an additional charge of \$25 for fluids.**

I DO DO NOT wish to have IV fluids given (<8 years) (Please Initial)

*I understand that an IV fluids is required for my pet over 8 years old (Please Initial)
*I understand that if my pet has trouble under anesthesia, IV fluids will be administered, and I will be charged \$25 for that service (Please Initial)

3. **Microchip** (recommended for 'escape artists')
This involves placing a small microchip under your pets' skin. This will help aid the recovery of your pet in case he/she gets lost. This requires that your dog be registered on the microchip manufacturer's website. Many shelters & veterinary hospitals have scanners & can report a found dog if they are registered. **There is an additional charge of \$50.00.**

I DO DO NOT wish to have a microchip placed today. (Please Initial)

4. **E-collar** (recommended for all pets): I DO DO NOT (Please Initial)
- **Comfort collar** (\$19-\$40) (see receptionist for color/pattern options)
 - **Soft collar** (\$20-\$25)
 - **Hard collar** (\$20-\$25)

PLEASE NOTE:

1. All animals are **REQUIRED BY LAW** to be current on their **RABIES** vaccination (within 1 year of the last rabies vaccination). If proof of vaccination is not available, your pet will be vaccinated for Rabies at your expense.
2. Branch’s Veterinary Clinic requires that all **FEES MUST BE PAID IN FULL** when services are rendered. Payments may include: cash, check, credit card, Care Credit and Scratchpay. If necessary, please ask for an estimate before signing this form.

Authorization to Perform Anesthesia and/or Surgery

I hereby authorize Branch’s Veterinary Clinic to perform the diagnostic, therapeutic and/or surgical procedures named above. The cost and nature of such services has been described to my satisfaction and I realize that no guarantee or warranty can be made, ethically or professionally, regarding the results/outcome of the procedure. I have been made aware of the risks associated with anesthesia and surgery and understand that Branch’s Veterinary Clinic will do everything within their means to reduce those risks.

I authorize Branch’s Veterinary Clinic to treat my pet in case of an emergency. I understand that the staff will contact me as soon as possible regarding the emergency and that I will be responsible for any additional charges that may result from this emergency.

I understand that any estimates given for services are only an estimated price. I acknowledge that Branch’s Veterinary Clinic attempts to give as accurate of an estimate as possible; however, I understand that there may be unforeseen complications and further treatment may be necessary during or following the procedure. If I am unable to be reached for question at the number I have left, I understand that the veterinarians at Branch’s Veterinary clinic will use their professional judgment with regards to the treatment of my pet and that this may result in additional charges.

I am the owner/agent of the animal presented here today. I accept and assume full and total financial responsibility for any and all service rendered. I understand that **PAYMENT IS DUE IN FULL WHEN SERVICES ARE RENDERED** and that my veterinarian has the authority to keep my pet until all charges are paid in full.

Owner/Agent’s Name (printed): _____

Date: ____/____/____

Owner/Agent’s Signature: _____

Clinic Use ONLY!
A/S Risks (read): _____
A/S Risks (ok’d): _____
P home sx day: _____
O know emg tx : _____

Anesthesia & Surgical Risk Consent

Anesthesia is used to perform surgical and medical procedures that would be painful or dangerous to the patient if they were awake. In some cases, patients are anesthetized for simpler procedures such as dentistry, radiographs, and lacerations since these procedures would require the patient to be in situations or positions which would be stressful or uncomfortable for them. Anesthesia is also used in situations where we have an excited or unruly patient that would make a routine procedure difficult or dangerous to perform for both the patient and staff.

Our anesthetic protocol will vary depending on the surgery/procedure being performed and the age/health of the patient. All patients are monitored while under anesthesia with electronic monitors like pulse oximetry, blood pressure and EKG. Most importantly, your pet is closely monitored during and after the procedure with the hands-on attention of our veterinary assistants and our doctors. Our staff is dedicated to making this process as safe as possible for your pet.

Our primary concern in every anesthetic procedure is patient safety. There will be some risk of complications anytime an anesthetic drug is administered to a patient. These risks may include, but are not limited to:

- Cardiac Arrest/Death
- CNS changes (altered mentation, blindness, etc) due to any of the complications listed here
- Hypotension causing damage to internal organs (such as the kidney or brain) and the need for additional treatment
- Life threatening arrhythmias
- Unknown sensitivity to medications causing a systemic reaction leading to cardiac and/or respiratory arrest
- Hypothermia (affecting ability to metabolize medications and prolonging sedation)
- Inflammation/tearing of the trachea due to endotracheal tube placement
- Aspiration of gastric contents (immediately post op)

The risk is always weighed against the benefit of being able to perform the procedure in question. All patients undergoing anesthesia are at risk of having complications, although older patients are at a higher risk. We will do everything possible to minimize the risk to your pet. Please understand that some conditions may not be evident on a basic physical exam or pre-anesthetic bloodwork screening. These include, but are not limited to, things such as an underlying heart condition that is not causing an audible murmur, congenital issues/anomalies that are not evident externally and sensitivities to medications.

To better ensure your pets safety during anesthesia, we recommend the following for **ALL** pets, even for young, healthy pets as well as for elective procedures such as spays, declaws and castrations:

- Pre-anesthetic blood testing (PCV/TP & chemistry panel). The PCV/TP will check for anemia and dehydration while a chemistry panel will check the status of the pancreas, liver and kidneys.
- IV Catheter and/or IV Fluids during surgery. An IV catheter will provide immediate access to the bloodstream to allow for medications to be given quickly in the case of an emergency or other complication that may need attention. IV fluids not only provide fluid support to the organs, but help to maintain blood pressure throughout the procedure and may prevent certain complications from arising.

Most pets undergoing anesthesia are doing so to have a surgical procedure performed. Whether that procedure is simple (such as a laceration repair) or complicated (such as a spay) there are different risks involved with each procedure and those risks will vary based on the individual pet and the surgical procedure being performed.

For most surgical procedures involving an incision being closed with sutures, the most common risks include (but are not limited to):

- Anesthetic risk (stated above)
- Bruising around the incision
- Excessive drainage/infection/inflammation/swelling/bleeding from the incision site
- Wound dehiscence (wound does not heal well)
- Skin sloughing (injured tissue continues to die)
- Suture reaction or failure
- Intra- or post-operative bleeding

Spays and neuters are often referred to as ‘routine’ surgeries but are actually quite complicated. These procedures require opening the abdomen (spay) or the scrotum (neuter) to tie off certain organs and remove them. Removing these organs requires that major arteries be tied off with suture.

For neuters, there is a small risk of ligature slippage that could cause excessive bleeding/death or just some continued oozing after surgery that could result in the scrotum filling with blood. Usually the latter situation is mild and will absorb itself over time, but sometimes the swelling can be so severe that the clot needs to be removed or it can cause tissue damage and/or skin sloughing.

For spays, there is a larger risk of ligature slippage after surgery that could result in blood loss into the abdomen and subsequent death. **This risk increases if your pet is overweight, over a year old, has had puppies, is in heat or pregnant.** Because being in heat/pregnant is a risk factor, we recommend avoiding this surgery during this time.

Other abdominal surgeries have risks similar to the ones mentioned above for a spay, but may include blood, urine, feces or other material that can leak into the abdomen and cause peritonitis. These risks depend on the type of surgery being performed.

Pets do not routinely stay overnight in the clinic after routine surgery. Most patients do very well following surgery and are not at risk going home. Some surgeries or emergent procedures require overnight stays. There are also situations where patients are too unstable to be released and are recommended to stay in the hospital overnight. In these cases, the risks outweigh the benefit of the pet going home. There is **NOT** overnight supervision at our clinic but there is a local emergency clinic in Valdosta available to transfer patients for continued care after our clinic closes if needed.

Please understand that if you take your pet home the day of surgery and a complication arises that needs medical attention, you will be responsible for the after hour emergency fee to have your pet seen.

After any surgical procedure or treatment, if you notice your pet having any of the above complications, is not acting right or does not seem to be improving as they should, please bring your pet in to us immediately to be examined, even if it means you have to be seen on an emergency basis. Waiting too long to have your pet seen could mean the difference between life and death as there are many more complications that can arise beyond those that are mentioned above. There is nothing that we can do for your pet if you do not let us know that there is something wrong! We would rather examine your pet to find there is nothing to worry about than to have something go terribly wrong!