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# *Surgery at The Forest Vet*

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Millers Yard, Straight Half Mile,  
Maresfield TN22 3AY

**01825 766006**

[www.theforestvet.co.uk](http://www.theforestvet.co.uk)



Surgery and anaesthesia is taken very seriously at The Forest Vet. We follow the latest research and guidelines to make sure that we follow clinical best practice. As an extra from our ethos we also have 'Nans' reading and cuddling patients post operatively, give hospital teddies to each patient to try and make their hospital experience as comfortable as possible.

## **Preparation At Home**

Please ensure that your pet has been starved from 8pm the night before their operation. Water should be available at all times. Rabbits and Guinea Pigs are not to be starved. Ferrets starved for 4 hours pre surgery. Dogs need to be taken out for toileting before coming in. Also please consider that surgery is done in a sterile environment so please don't bring dogs covered in mud! Please bring any special diets needed and an item of clothing or bedding familiar to your pet to make them feel more settled. Please ensure your dog is up to date with lungworm treatments as lungworm causes bleeding issues.

**Wormers range from £5-£12**

**Lungworm Test £35**

## **Anaesthesia and Sedation**

There are side effects to all sedatives and anaesthetic agents used, in both human and veterinary medicine. The main effects are a decrease in heart rate and respiratory rate which leads to a decrease in oxygen delivery to the vital organs. All general anaesthetics and sedatives carry a risk. The American Society of Anaesthesiologist (ASA) classification system has been used in human anaesthesia which we now apply to animals. Every patient admitted for a procedure will be given an ASA class. It is recommended that any patient from ASA class 2-5 has a comprehensive blood and urine screen before an anaesthetic and is placed on fluid therapy throughout the GA to maintain blood pressure and therefore oxygen delivery to vital organs.

<b>ASA Class 1</b>	<b>Minimal Risk</b>	<b>Normal Healthy Patient</b>
<b>ASA Class 2</b>	Slight risk, minor disease present	Mild systemic disturbance or neonate/geriatric/obese
<b>ASA Class 3</b>	Moderate risk, disease obvious	Moderate Systemic disturbance
<b>ASA Class 4</b>	High risk	Severe pre-existing disease or disturbance
<b>ASA Class 5</b>	Extreme risk	Last ditch surgery on a moribund patient

At The Forest Vet, we offer a comprehensive pre-operative screening package which is highly recommended in seniors and geriatrics. For adult pets, we also advise that you consider a pre-op liver and kidney check.



**Liver and Kidney Pre op Blood Check £45**  
**Pre-Operative Assessment ASA Class 2-5, full blood screen plus urinalysis £107**  
**Fluid Therapy £54**

The other side effect of sedation is the inability to regulate body temperature. We make every effort to keep your pets warm during sedation and GA. We use blankets, heat pads, socks donated by clients, foil blankets, and monitor their temperature regularly from the point of sedation

## Admit

You will be booked an admit appointment for your pet's procedure between 8.30-9am with one of our nursing team. They will perform a physical examination of vital parameters and take you through consent forms as well as a few questions about what your individual pet likes with regards to food and lifestyle habits. Your pet will then be taken to the wards and settled into a bed after they have chosen their free hospital teddy! You will be asked for a £100 deposit on admission of your pet.



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## Sedation

15-30 minutes before your pet's procedure they will be administered a sedative called a pre-med. This quiets them down and also forms part of the anaesthetic protocol as well as having strong pain relief qualities. From this point on, they have a dedicated nurse who will be with them for the rest of the day. Higher risk patients will have ECG, pulse oximetry and blood pressure measurements as well.

All patients will have an IV cannula placed to improve safety of anaesthesia. This will involve a clipped patch on their front leg and if bloods have been taken a clipped patch on their neck.



## General Anaesthesia

At the time of surgery the vet will induce anaesthesia to induce a state of unconsciousness. Then a tube is placed down the throat to provide oxygen and anaesthetic gas. Your pet's nurse will monitor them throughout the entire procedure.

## The Surgery

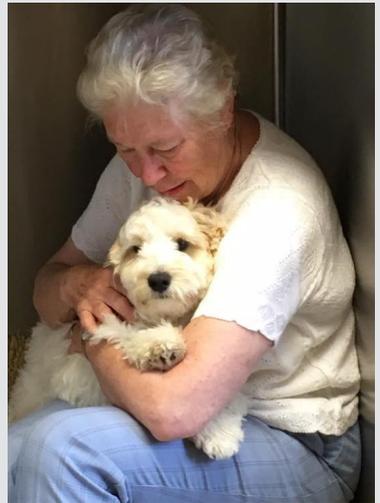


The surgical site is clipped and cleaned to prevent infection and create a sterile environment for surgery. The surgeons at The Forest Vet all use disposable gowns, gloves, hats and masks to create the most sterile environment possible for theatre.

Both Rachael and Sarah who are the main surgeons at The Forest Vet have a keen interest in surgery and are very experienced. Rachael is currently in her final year of a post graduate certificate in small animal surgery which enables us as a team to provide a high standard of clinical best practice recommended by the leading specialist veterinary surgeons in the country. It also means that our vets have increased training and knowledge of more complicated procedures that can be carried out in our practices rather than being referred.

## Recovery

After the procedure your pet will be taken to the wards to recover with their nurse. They will be kept warm and monitored closely until they are fully awake. Then the 'nan' will take over the TLC so they feel as comfortable as possible. Once they are stable on their feet the dogs are taken out to the toilet and offered a lunch of a chicken and rice based food. You will be called by either the surgeon or a member of the nursing team to give you an update about the procedure and how your pet is doing. We take pain planning very seriously, and during your pets time in the hospital they will be pain scored every 4 hours and given additional pain relief accordingly.



## Collection

You will have a discharge appointment at your convenience after 4pm. A member of the nursing team will give you post op instructions including any medications, pain score charts and when your post op checks will be. Post op checks are usually 3 and 10 days after the procedure.

## Post Op Care

For 24 hours your pet will find temperature regulation difficult so please keep them inside and nice and warm.

We advise your pet has a bland diet on recovery. At The Forest Vet we provide a sachet or tin of chicken and rice based food to give your pet the evening after their surgery. Your pet may have loose faces or be slightly constipated. If this persists then contact us.

If your pet suffers a cough after the procedure this is due to the tube placed in the throat for the anaesthetic.



Please fill out the pain scoring charts for your pet as this is the best way we can assess pain in animals. You will be called by a member of the nursing team the day after the procedure to ensure your pet is as comfortable as possible and to answer any questions you may have.

**We endeavour to provide the most comfortable environment possible for your pet and best clinical practice, please let us know of your experience with us.**

## **The Price of Surgery**

A lot of people can be shocked by the price of some of the surgeries, lets have a look at a breakdown of the price of a common surgery inclusive of VAT and what you are paying for.....

**Anaesthesia £170 (cats) £210 (dogs)** – Trained nurses monitoring your patient throughout the day, the price of the sedatives and anaesthetic agents, the trained veterinary surgeon who must induce and control the anaesthetic, the cost of all the monitoring equipment and machines

**Surgery £100 for 15 minutes** – Qualified and experienced surgeons performing the procedure to the highest clinical standards

**Surgical Consumables £36** – disposable hats, gloves, masks, gowns, drapes, needles, syringes. All are used only once for each procedure and then disposed.

**Suture Materials** - chosen by the surgeon depending on the tissue and which strength and qualities are needed: Monocryl £9.77, PDS £5.16, Vicryl £9.00

**In Patient Boarding £20** - bedding, kennel facilities, washing, food, nurses to take them for toilet trips

**Medications Post Op** – depends on the procedure, commonly an anti-inflammatory and pain relief

**Post-Operative Care Package £36** – includes two post op consultations at day 3 and 10 for a full health check post anaesthetic, check wounds and remove stitches.

**Total of basic surgery for half an hour procedure £522** - Please note that is without fluids, blood tests, any antibiotics or histology/lab tests needed. Although estimates are given at the consultation, the price may change on the day depending on Veterinary diagnostics or treatments needed.



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