



Medford Animal Hospital & Wellness Clinic

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Medford, NJ 08055
(609) 654-6855

"It is our goal to cultivate a collaborative veterinary team that strives to offer honest, compassionate, evolving and exceptional patient care while creating trusting relationships and treating both pets and "parents" like family."

Sedation/Anesthesia Consent Form

I understand that my veterinarian is recommending sedation or anesthesia for my pet and that she is doing so because this is in his/her best interest. Patients are routinely sedated and anesthetized at Medford Animal Hospital, and meaningful complications are extremely rare.

Because physical examination does not allow us to completely characterize the health of a pet, laboratory work and imaging is often recommended prior to any anesthetized procedure. Routine sedation is commonly performed without this; however, your veterinarian will always recommend what she feels is best for your pet, as age and comorbidities can necessitate a more comprehensive diagnostic work-up. Diagnostics were ____ / were not ____ performed prior to the procedure today. The absence of diagnostics leading into a sedated/anesthetized procedure can result in unforeseen consequences perioperatively/post-operatively or prevent us from diagnosing disease that may preclude the logic of performing the planned treatments.

Sedation/anesthesia can and often does reduce heart rate, respiratory rate, temperature and blood pressure. These parameters will be monitored closely. Monitoring equipment may be recommended and often comes in the form of:

- ECG
- Respiratory rate monitoring
- Temperature monitoring
- Blood pressure monitoring
- Pulse oximetry (oxygen levels)
- Capnography (carbon dioxide levels)

A dedicated technician will monitor your pet's vital signs.

RARE complications under sedation/anesthesia may include (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Highly depressed vital signs necessitating additional medications, fluids or the cessation of the procedure altogether
- Abnormal heart rates/rhythms
- Apnea (respiratory arrest necessitating intubation and mechanical ventilation until the pet breaths spontaneously)
- Aspiration pneumonia
- Neurologic injury
- Kidney injury
- Cardiopulmonary arrest (anesthetic death)

I understand that my veterinarian considers the welfare of my pet to be of pivotal importance and will act as an agent in my stead to offer sound medical advice and loving care. I understand that my veterinarian will contact me immediately should any complications arise.

I have read and signed the advance directive form and have either given permission to my veterinarian to perform resuscitative efforts should they be deemed necessary; or, declined resuscitation, with the understanding that anesthetic death, while rare, can be reversed with immediate interventions and medications.

CPR Consent

The following may be observed/is recommended after anesthetized or sedated procedures:

- Your pet may be groggy for about 12-24 hours after anesthesia or sedation. Therefore, it is important to assist your pet when getting into or out of automobiles and walking/climbing up or down steps. At home, confine your pet to prevent accidents.
- Pacing, disorientation, and vocalization may occur on recovery. These signs may persist for 6-8 hours or more. Call your clinician if abnormal behavior continues after this time.
- Food and water may be given (unless otherwise instructed by the clinician) 6-8 hours after recovery but a half-ration is generally recommended.
- As the anesthetic or sedative agents wear off, your pet may experience slight discomfort. If your pet appears to be in pain, contact us immediately.
- It is best to restrict children and other animals from sedated pets for 18 to 24 hours; your pet may experience residual sedation and possible post-procedural discomfort, resulting in atypical behaviors.
- Anesthetic medications can cause slowing of the GI tract. It may take 2-4 days for a normal BM schedule to resume. Occasionally, anesthetic drugs can result in loss of appetite, vomiting and/or diarrhea. Please report these symptoms immediately.
- Due to a fundamentally poor airway control, dogs (more rarely, cats) can aspirate under anesthesia. We take a number of precautions to prevent this; however, please monitor closely for and report the following: lethargy, vomiting, loss of appetite, rapid breathing, labored breathing, pale oral mucous membranes
- ***Please ensure you have reviewed any medications with your technician upon discharge (this includes current chronic medications, new medications, potential interactions, side effects and start times)***

Signature:

Date:

Type Name:

Best phone number at which to reach me: