



# Elham Valley Referrals

## Cataract Surgery

### What to expect on the day

- ➔ 8.30-9am your pet will be admitted for surgery. We will go through a consent form with you and ensure that you have read all of the pre-operative instructions.
- ➔ Your pet will then be settled into their kennel where we will perform pre-operative checks, including blood tests. We will then administer a pre-med injection which includes a painkiller and a sedative.
- ➔ We will place your pet on a drip (one of your pets legs will be clipped for this) and administer a general anaesthetic approximately half an hour after the pre-med was administered. An ERG (electroretinography) will then be performed to check retinal function.
- ➔ Assuming we get a positive ERG we will prepare your pet for surgery. This will include a “spectacle” clip around the eye(s), the inside of one thigh will be also clipped so that we can attach our anaesthetic monitoring equipment.
- ➔ In the unfortunate event of a negative ERG, we will wake your pet up from the anaesthetic and give you a ring.
- ➔ We muscle relax and ventilate all of our cataract surgery patients. This is in order to achieve a suitable eye position for surgery and to allow us to make the anaesthetic as safe as possible.
- ➔ Once surgery has started your pet will be under anaesthetic for approximately:
  - One eye: 2 – 2.5 hours
  - Both eyes: 2.5 - 3 hours

Please note that these times are variable depending on the hardness of the cataract.

- ➔ Once the surgery has finished your pet will be monitored very closely whilst they wake up. This will include monitoring: temperature, pulse, respiration, intraocular pressure, continued intravenous fluids and constant pain assessments.
- ➔ If we have not given you a time to call us for an update, will give you a ring to update you on your pet’s progress once they are recovering well from their anaesthetic. This will probably be around mid afternoon, but please feel free to ring us before if you are worried!
- ➔ Going home times are usually between 3.30pm and 5.30pm depending how quickly your pet recovers. This will be discussed with you over the phone.

### **Discharge Procedure:**

- ✓ When you arrive to collect your pet, a nurse will go through a discharge sheet with you, which will include all of your pet's post-operative instructions.
- ✓ Please note there will be several eye medications that will need to be administered intensively for the first 24-48 hours.
- ✓ Your pet may be very groggy and possibly unsettled for the first 24-48 hours post surgery. This is a normal response to anaesthesia, however if you are concerned at any point do not hesitate to ring the surgery.
- ✓ When you collect your pet they will be wearing a buster collar and the harness you have provided. Your pet **MUST** wear a harness for the entire post operative period, this is to avoid any pressure on their neck which can raise the pressure in their eyes, if you do not have one already you will need to get one for your pet prior to the surgery)
- ✓ We will book you an appointment to come back the next morning for an eye pressure check.

If you have any questions about the above prior to surgery please do not hesitate to ring us at the surgery on 01303 840499

Please note that payment is expected at the time of treatment. However, in exceptional circumstances, i.e. insured animals, other options are available at the Practice Manager's discretion. Please discuss this with us prior to surgery as it will all need to be authorised by us and your insurance company in advance.