



Step by Step

Most of the time your pets are healthy, happy and enjoy life to the full. However, an occasion may arise when they require an operation, involving a **general anaesthetic**.

Of course it is only natural that you may feel anxious on the day of your pet's surgery. Every hour they are away from you can seem like a day, as you await our call. As with all anaesthetics, there is a slight risk involved, but we do realise how important your pets are to you. So to reassure you that they receive only the very best care and attention from our team, here is some information that we hope will help you understand what happens to your pet **before, during and after anaesthesia**.

A key point to remember is that your pet will be totally unaware of their operation and feel no pain, as they will be fast asleep.

Before

Your pet will receive a health examination. In some cases, we may recommend a pre-anaesthetic blood test, to show problems such as weak organ function, which could increase any potential risks. It also helps the vet to decide on a suitable anaesthetic for your pet's age and health.

Full instructions will be given on feeding your pet for the night before their procedure, and it is vital that you follow these correctly. If you are at all unsure, always ask as we are here to help.

The 4 stages of Anaesthesia

Your pet is closely monitored by our trained staff through the entire anaesthesia process.

1. Pre-anaesthetic Should your pet be a little anxious, we will administer a calming and relaxing pre-operative medication.

2. Induction A small area is shaved on the front foreleg, where we inject the anaesthetic drug into a small vein, and our patient gradually becomes anaesthetised.

3. Maintenance We then pass a tube down the trachea (windpipe), which is connected to the anaesthetic machine. A mix of gases and vaporised drugs are passed direct to the patient via the tube. Sometimes injectable drugs are used, but this will depend on age, health and type of procedure. Your pet's breathing and heart rate are constantly monitored.

4. Recovery Once the operation is complete, the anaesthetics are stopped, and your pet will soon begin to wake up. We constantly observe, comfort and reassure our patient during this time, keeping them safe, warm and comfortable until they are fully conscious and ready to go home. Our vets or nurses will provide you with detailed post-operative instructions on care and feeding when you arrive to collect your pet.

We hope this has put your mind a little more at rest, if your pet should require anaesthesia. Further information is available from our team, who will be happy to answer any queries you have.

Consider Insurance Accidents and sudden illness can occur with your much-loved pet when you are least expecting them, and at such an anxious time, it is comforting to know that we are here.

Veterinary medicine has advanced greatly over the years, and this now enables us to diagnose and treat a wide range of conditions that may previously have been incurable. However, treating your pet can often incur expensive procedures, and the last thing you need is the added worry of costs.

We recommend that you consider life-long insurance for your pet. Instead of worrying about the financial expense of tests, operations and treatments, you can relax knowing that your chosen insurance company can help cover the cost. There are many policies available, so it is important to read them thoroughly to see exactly what they include before making your decision.

www.westwoodvets.co.uk



Westwood hours

Consultations
by appointment only

Boston Spa

01937 842210

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 6pm
Saturday 8.30am - 1pm

Garforth

01132 320085

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 6pm

24 Hour 7day
Emergency Service
by our own Vets for
Pets and Equine



Are you Aware of Ringworm?

Now do not get confused here, as this is not your usual kind of internal parasite worm that we warn you about. Ringworm is a type of fungus, which infects the skin of cats, dogs and even us humans.

How is ringworm transmitted?

This can happen from direct contact with an infected animal or from where they have been. The fungi spores are shed, and survive in the environment for long periods of time.

What you should look out for?

A small round bald patch, which may have scaly skin in the middle or small spots. Sometimes this causes irritation for your pet, so watch out for any scratching or nibbling.

ARNOLD'S AILMENTS



"Come in Arnold, now what seems to be the trouble?"

"Eh what vet, speak up, did you say bubble?"

"Uh oh," sighed the vet, "this is going to be tricky"

"No," said the dog, "my feet are not sticky!"

"You see," said Arnold, "the problem is my ears. The itching is frightful and it brings me to tears."

"Mmmm," the vet said, "I'll get my auroscope."

"What's that you say doc, have I met the pope?"

Once more Arnold's ears began to creep and crawl, Causing him to scratch so madly and to almost fall.

"Now let me see," said the vet, "what exactly is wrong."

"Uh what vet eh, you're wearing a thong?!"

"Hold still please, so I can look down your ear.

Ah yes, now I can see them good and clear.

It's ear mites that are causing your problem, Soreness, gooey wax and there are lots of them!"

These tiny creatures like ear canals warm and snug, Close contact with other animals, you pick up this bug.

"Just some drops" said the vet "of medication, Will clear those mites out and soothe irritation."

"Thank you so much doc, I will do what you say."

Said Arnold politely as he went on his way.

"But before I do leave, may I ask are you okay?"

Only you've asked me some very strange questions today!"



Is it Ringworm?

This condition can be confirmed by specific tests. We may take a hair sample from around the infected area to study under a microscope, or gather a little of the scaly skin, to enable us to grow a culture. Alternatively we use a special black light called a 'Woods Lamp', which can show the fungus as a glowing fluorescent colour. If your pet is diagnosed with ringworm, we can discuss a suitable course of treatment.

As owners are at risk from ringworm, regularly check your pet's skin and coat for unusual signs or changes. If you find something you would like us to check out, please contact us for an appointment.

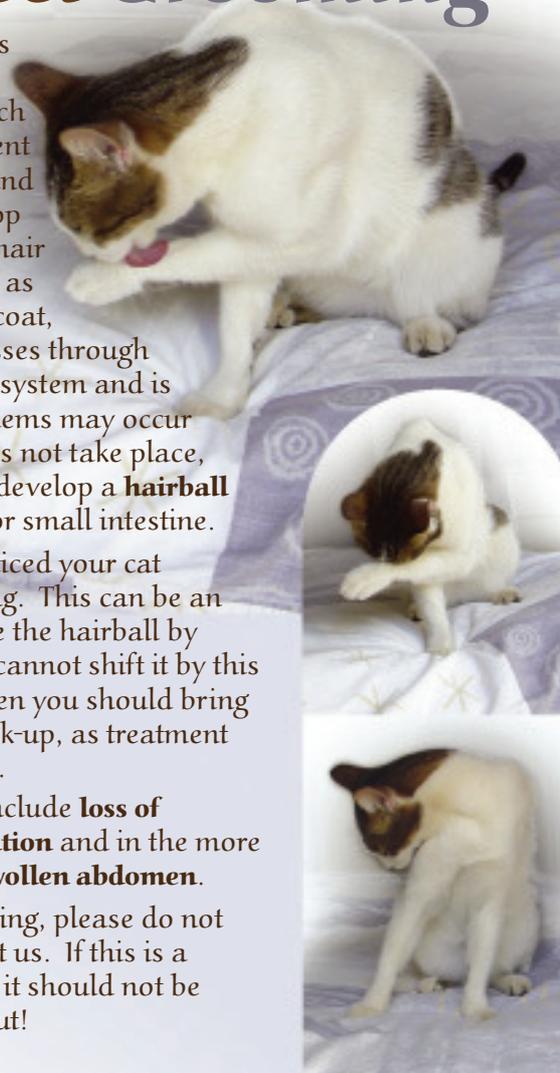
Purrfect Grooming

A cat's coat always seems clean and neat, because much of their time is spent licking, nibbling and cleaning it from top to toe. However, hair can be swallowed as they groom their coat, which usually passes through the cats' digestive system and is 'pooed' out. Problems may occur if this process does not take place, as a cat can then develop a **hairball** in their stomach or small intestine.

You may have noticed your cat gagging or retching. This can be an attempt to remove the hairball by vomiting. If they cannot shift it by this natural action, then you should bring them in for a check-up, as treatment may be necessary.

Other signs can include **loss of appetite, constipation** and in the more serious cases a **swollen abdomen**.

If your cat is retching, please do not hesitate to contact us. If this is a hairball problem, it should not be left to sort itself out!



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