



At Newtown Veterinary Hospital your pet's comfort and safety is our primary concern.

We know that anesthesia and surgery are stressful for both you and your pet.

We also understand that cost is often a factor in choosing your pet's care, and we want to be sure that you understand how our hospital policies and procedures can make **a real difference to you and your pet.**

The following are just a few ways that we strive to minimize your pet's stress and pain while at NVH.

Pre & Post Surgical Pain Control:

Scientific evidence proves that pets experience pain **the same** way we do. Proper pain management involves not only anesthesia, but additional medications given for the sole purpose of relieving surgical and post surgical pain. Each patient is evaluated during their stay to determine their individual needs for additional pain medications. As well, additional medications may be sent home for your pet if necessary.

Pain management has been proven scientifically to improve healing and speed recovery. It is considered "standard of care" by the PA State Board of Veterinary Examiners.

Intravenous Catheters: Our patients that receive general anesthesia have an intravenous catheter placed prior to the induction of anesthesia. This cost is included in our surgical fee. IV catheters are crucial for patient safety. They are used for the administration of IV

fluids to support circulation during surgery, and for the delivery of emergency drugs, if necessary.

Fluids are delivered through the use of infusion pumps that prevent overdosing and underdosing of IV fluids. These can be adjusted based on each patient's individual needs.

Induction Anesthetics: NVH prides itself on the anesthetic protocols we choose to use on our patients. We use the safest human injectable anesthetics that have a quick onset, but a short duration so that your pet has a minimum amount of drug exposure. They then have a breathing tube placed and are maintained on Isoflurane gas and 100% oxygen.

Surgical Anesthesia Monitoring: We have a trained technician with your pet from the start of a procedure through recovery. This again affects cost, but **many** hospitals do not have anyone monitoring your pet during a procedure. Additionally, we place your pet on an EKG machine which tracks the hearts electrical activity, a pulse oximeter which monitors blood oxygenation levels **AND** have trained technicians feeling pulse rates and monitoring respiration. We also keep blood pressure monitors at hand when deemed necessary.

Heated Water Circulation Blankets: While your pet is under general anesthesia they are unable to regulate their own body temperature. Our anesthetized patients' core body temperature is continuously monitored and it is supported with heated water blankets which are much safer than electric heat sources. Body temperature is important in recovery from anesthesia especially in pediatric and the smaller patients.

Emergency Drugs: In the event of an emergency we have a fully stocked area with essential drugs and supplies needed if such an event were to arise.

Precision Suture & Surgical

Instruments: Some hospitals save money by using less expensive, poorer quality instruments and some even **REUSE** suture material or buy expired human hospital suture. Unfortunately the same safety regulations in human medicine do not apply in the veterinary world. We only use high quality instruments that are sterilized **between every patient**. We use individually packaged sterilized suture that fits the needs of each patient.

Syringes and Needles: There unfortunately are no regulations to prevent veterinary hospitals from reusing syringes and needles to lower their costs. Our hospital would **NEVER** risk your pet's health by reusing syringes or needles. This does, however, requires us to charge a fee to dispose of the high volume of medical waste through licensed haulers.

Post Surgical Care: At NVH your pet is treated as if it were OUR own. Every patient is individually assessed throughout their stay. Pain medications are routinely given on an as needed basis. As with humans, some patients require an overnight stay (or 2). We know this is difficult for some, but it is in the best interest of your pet. The stay allows them to be re-dosed for pain, evaluated by trained personnel for complications and keeps them safe and confined during recovery.

Informational Discharges: In this busy world the importance of one on one time is sometimes overlooked. At NVH we make sure we take the time to go over your pet's individual case and care with you at the time of discharge. We give you detailed care sheets and medications. It allows you to ask any questions you may have. You may also ask to speak with a doctor at that time as well if your questions are unanswered.

Please do not hesitate to ask us questions **OR ANY** veterinary care provider you may choose.

You have the right and the responsibility to your pet to know what services are being provided.

***Ask** other hospitals whether they practice pain control measures and what they use.*

***Ask** if they place breathing tubes in their surgical patients.*

***Ask** if they have a trained staff member monitoring your pet during all aspects of their procedure.*

***Ask** if they use sterile instruments and wear surgical attire.*

***Ask** if your pet will have an intravenous catheter AND intravenous fluids.*

***Ask** if they are using the safest anesthetic drugs available.*

Do not be afraid to ask these questions wherever you choose to take your pet.

Yes, the materials and resources listed here may cost more than less expensive alternatives, but their true value lies in increased safety.

Do not assume that all veterinary hospitals are alike. That is what some would like you to think.

Knowledge is power and if we can reach the public and educate them then we can help many animals avoid suffering in silence.

Cheaper is not always better. Be an informed pet owner!!!!!!!!!!!!!!