

Checklist of Comparison

Do you wonder why an estimate for a procedure can vary from clinic to clinic? This checklist will help you compare “apples to apples” so you know what you are getting with your procedure. This will allow you to make an informed decision about your pet’s care.

The following things are included in our estimates:

Galena Square

- Pre-anesthetic blood testingyes
- Pre-operative sedativesyes
- Pre-operative pain medicationyes
- General anesthesiayes
- Anesthetic monitoring capabilitiesyes
 - EKGyes
 - Pulse oximeteryes
 - Blood pressureyes
- Dedicated anesthetist.....yes
- IV catheter and fluidsyes
- Nerve blocks for declawsyes
- Post-surgical pain medicationsyes
- Pet is held/monitored while wakingyes
- Doctor on call for after-hours questionsyes
- Detailed written aftercare instructionsyes



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A Guide to Comparing Veterinary Surgical Services



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What questions should you ask and why?

If you want the kind of care for your cherished pet that you want for yourself or another family member, you need to investigate the quality of care you are being offered by any veterinarian. Unfortunately, similar sounding procedures are frequently not the same at different veterinary hospitals.

To get high quality care, you need to choose a hospital with high standards. When asking about any service, please inquire as to what is included in the procedure that you are interested in. Also, inquire about what kind of monitoring is used for anesthesia. A good clinic should be happy to talk with you about all of these things.

Once you have all the appropriate information, you can make an informed choice as to what level of health care you would like for your pet.



- **Pre-anesthetic blood testing:** This is done to make sure that your pet's internal organs, such as liver and kidneys, are functioning correctly.
- **Pre-operative pain medication:** Studies have shown that pain medication given before a procedure is much more effective in *preventing* pain build-up than pain medication given after the procedure. Of course, pain medications after surgery are also important.
- **Anesthetic monitoring:** The electrocardiogram, blood oxygen level, and blood pressure measurement are all very important since they can point to early signs of anesthetic problems when those problems can still be fixed.
- **Dedicated anesthetist:** It is vitally important for your pet's safety that there be someone present during the procedure whose only task is to monitor your pet. Would you be comfortable going under anesthesia if the only person in the room with you was the person performing the procedure?

- **IV Catheter and fluids:** An IV catheter allows instant access to the circulatory system if any emergency drugs need to be given. IV fluids are used to keep blood pressure in a safe range and help preserve kidney function during anesthesia.
- **Nerve Blocks:** This is done to make sure that your pet is as pain free as possible during and immediately after surgery. This is especially important for declaws, neuters, and dental surgery.
- **Doctor on Call Afterhours:** There is ALWAYS a veterinarian on call for our patients. All our patients are important to us and we know that after surgery can be an especially trying time- which is why a veterinarian is only a phone call away.
- **Post operative medications and instructions:** Pain medications, antibiotics (when appropriate), and aftercare instructions are included with all our surgeries.

