

## ***Exceptional care at Loving Hands Animal Clinic includes:***

### **Pre-Anesthetic Blood work**

Any age animal can benefit from pre-anesthetic blood work to evaluate the liver, kidneys, blood glucose, blood protein, and electrolytes. In early stages of disease your pet may appear normal outwardly, but the organs may not be able to handle the anesthetic drugs that we routinely administer. Having the blood work done before anesthesia is another way to try to ensure a safe anesthetic procedure for your pet.

### **Intravenous Catheter Placement**

An intravenous (IV) catheter provides immediate access to the circulatory system. While rare, problems may occur during anesthesia. A catheter provides us with a way to get medication into your pet's system rapidly should complications occur. Fluids can also be administered during the anesthetic procedure to help support kidney function. This is especially important in prolonged procedures or older pets. The IV catheter will be placed in your pet before surgery and will be left in place until your pet is safely recovered from anesthesia. At that time the catheter will be removed and a bandage placed to prevent any bleeding. Many pets are sent home with the bandage which can easily be removed later at home.

### **Fentanyl Patch for Pain Management**

A fentanyl patch is a sticky, plastic, gel-filled device that is placed on a shaved area of your pet's skin. The patch sticks to the skin and releases pain medication in a time-released fashion over the next three to five days. We recommend the patch for more invasive, pain-inducing surgeries (spays, multiple dental extractions, abdominal surgery, orthopedic surgery) as a way to make your pet as comfortable as possible during the recovery process. Other pain medications may be dispensed if the veterinarian sees a need. No animal at this clinic will undergo surgery without proper control of post-operative pain. The patch makes pain management more convenient for the owner and continuously available for the patient.

The patch will be covered by some sort of bandage to protect it from the patient and to help anchor it in place. You will be required to bring your pet back to the clinic for patch removal. The patch can leave behind mild irritation of the skin, but this resolves quickly once the patch is removed.

### **Pulse Oximetry**

Pulse Oximetry is a state of the art monitoring technique which measures the oxygen saturation of hemoglobin. It readily detects adverse trends prior to a patient getting into danger from anesthesia. It's very rapid response and sensitivity helps reveal the critical oxygen delivery capability of your pet's body

## **Indirect Systolic Blood Pressure Monitoring**

Indirect Systolic Blood Pressure is monitored during critical anesthesia situations and is used diagnostically to provide an assessment of blood volume and the adequacy of blood flow to tissues. Measuring blood pressure lets us know when your pet needs fluid support or drugs during anesthesia before it becomes a problem and signs of shock become apparent.

## **Electrocardiography**

ECG measures the heart rate, rhythm and shape of impulses to allow us to determine subtle abnormalities that may not be detectable any other way or before they are so obvious that heart function and blood flow to tissues is disrupted.

## **Visual, Tactile and Auditory Monitoring**

Visual, tactile, and auditory monitoring by a veterinary nurse during a procedure is very important to your pet's safety. A separate person acts as the anesthetist rather than having the surgeon rely solely on mechanical monitoring devices during the procedure. This allows the surgeon to concentrate on the procedure at hand and allows early recognition of trends in anesthesia and accurate and moment to moment assessment of anesthetic depth.

*Loving Hands Animal Clinic*

13775 Highway 9

Milton, Georgia 30004

(770) 667-9022

[www.lovinghands.com](http://www.lovinghands.com)