



## *SERVICES WE OFFER:*

### *General Anaesthesia*

#### *What is it?*

General anaesthesia is defined as ‘reversible insensitivity to pain’; the patient should feel nothing and be able to remember nothing. It is generally used to perform surgical procedures painlessly and humanely, but is also commonly used to restrain animals for non-surgical procedures where they are required to be completely immobile such as radiography or endoscopy. This is a drug-induced state of unconsciousness.

#### *What is involved?*

We understand that your pet having to have a general anaesthetic is one of the most worrying things that can happen to you as a pet owner. Whilst no general anaesthetic is risk-free, we take every precaution to ensure that these risks are kept to a minimum by personalising the anaesthetic protocol specifically to your animal. We do not believe in the “one size fits all” philosophy where anaesthesia is concerned.

When your pet is admitted for a general anaesthetic, you will be asked to sign a consent form for the procedure. We will endeavour to ensure that everything about the procedure is explained to you so that when you sign the form, you are giving informed consent.

A general anaesthetic consists of 4 stages;

1. *Pre-medication* – this is a mild sedative to help your pet relax and it also helps reduce the amount of the drugs that we will have to give in the next 2 stages. Which drug or combination of drugs given will depend on your pet’s individual circumstances.
2. *Induction* - after the pre-medication has had time to work, your pet will have an intra-venous catheter placed in his/her foreleg and the drug known as the induction agent will be injected, this is the drug that helps them lose consciousness. The selection of which drug we use will again depend on the individual animal.
3. *Maintenance* – once induced, your pet will then have an endo-tracheal tube placed to help him/her breathe and they will be kept asleep with a mixture of an inhalation agent (gas) and oxygen delivered by an anaesthetic machine. The only inhalation agent that we use is Sevoflurane, it is slightly more expensive than other agents on the market but we believe it is safer, quicker acting and animals recover a lot quicker from it.
4. *Recovery* – When the procedure is finished, the anaesthetic machine will be switched off and just oxygen delivered to your pet until they show signs of regaining consciousness at which point their tube will be removed and they will be returned to a kennel to recover completely.

During the entire procedure, your pet will be monitored by a qualified member of staff using the latest state-of-the-art monitoring equipment.

