

# Fine Furry Friends

## Southwest Veterinary Hospital

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### Anesthesia and Surgery:

What does SWVH do to make sure your pet is as safe as possible?

Dr. Sargent or Dr. Rasmusson has recommended a professional dental cleaning or perhaps it is time for your puppy to get spayed – what can you and your beloved pet expect?

Anesthesia and surgery can be scary words, but the doctors and staff at SWVH are committed to providing a safe experience through the use of quality equipment and the highest standard in medicine and surgery, including pre-operative exams, blood tests, monitoring, temperature regulation and safe anesthetics.

Dr. Rasmusson or Dr. Sargent perform a complete physical exam, and age-appropriate blood work to evaluate liver and kidney function, rule-out diabetes, and ensure normal white and red blood cell counts.

While most surgeries and anesthetics are uneventful, emergencies sometimes occur. Detecting problems early improves our ability to intervene and correct them. A breathing tube keep the airway open and allow for supplemental oxygen and gas anesthesia. Monitors track heart rate, blood pressure, and blood oxygen level, ensuring normal respiration and circulation. Intravenous fluids prevent low blood pressure, the number one anesthetic complication. In addition, SWVH

stocks emergency medications and supplies at all times.

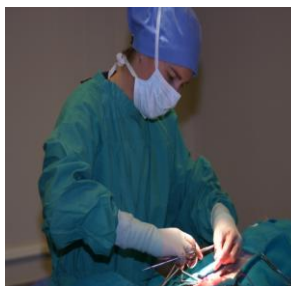
During anesthesia and surgery patients lose body heat – if a patient gets too cold the heart and brain can be affected. We monitor patient temperature during and after surgery and also provide supplemental heating as needed.

Surgery hurts! Analgesics (pain medications) given before, during and after anesthesia keep your pet comfortable. Pain level and vital signs are monitored after the procedure so we can administer additional medication if indicated.

Follow up care is crucial for proper healing. SWVH distributes clear oral and written instructions. Ask us if there are any questions!!



Lola recovering from surgery



Dr. Rasmusson performing surgery

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#### SWVH anesthesia:

- Pre-anesthetic lab work to confirm the patient is healthy with no pre-existing illness
- Pre- and post-surgical pain relief injections
- IV catheter and fluid therapy
- Ultra-short recovery anesthesia



Cats perceive litter boxes close together as only one box

## Litter Box 101

These tips might help to solve or prevent problems.

1. Provide the type of litter your cat loves. Most cats prefer clumping clay litter. If it is working, stick with it.
2. Scoop daily (twice is nice). If you are using clumping litter, change entire litter weekly.
3. Ideally, have as many litter boxes as there are cats – plus one.
4. Some cats do prefer covered litter boxes, but most do not.
5. Location matters. Cats are vulnerable when using the litter box and need to feel safe from other cats, other pets and children.
6. Use super-sized litter boxes, particularly for big or overweight cats that require elbow room. Try plastic storage containers with low sides instead (the kind used to store sweaters).

Have questions? Ask Dr. Sargent or Dr. Rasmusson.

## Furry Friends invited to your party?

Summer is a great time to have friends and family over for celebrations. Giving some thought to your pets during the planning can mean the difference between a fabulous fete and an embarrassing disaster.

- Decide if your pets should even be on the guest list
- Keep “people food” out of reach (especially chocolate, grapes, bones, liquor, caffeine, milk, sugarless gum and mints)
- Make proper introductions (consider keeping your dog on

a leash or in your arms as guests enter – this gives them an opportunity to say hello – or not)

- Secure all exits
- Pick one room for stowing coats and bags (and keep the pets out)
- Add ribbon to your most-watched list (if swallowed, ribbon can lodge in a pet’s digestive tract, triggering serious health problems)
- Light up with care (candles, luminaries and torches help set

the mood – but they need close attention in a household with pets)

- Invest in sturdy garbage bins with tight-fitting lids (this discourages scavenging through possible harmful leftovers, such as poultry bones)
- Be extra Vigilant when hosting outdoor events (nicotine in even one or two cigarette butts can cause vomiting and tremors in small dogs and cats)

“Keep “people food” out of reach (especially chocolate, grapes, bones, liquor, caffeine, milk, sugarless gum and mints)”

### Need to contact us?

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Thanks for voting  
SWVH as Reno News  
and Review best of  
2011!!!



Now two years in a  
row!