

St. Louis Cat Clinic
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What is Special About Anesthesia and Surgery at St. Louis Cat Clinic



Anesthesia and surgery at veterinary facilities is not the same or equal. Cost is not the only difference. A pet owner needs to be aware of the differences in care and quality of care.

St. Louis Cat Clinic uses Isoflurane gas anesthesia with oxygen for almost every surgery and dental procedure. Why? Gas anesthesia is much safer and depth of anesthesia can be controlled easily and accurately. All patients are different. Anesthesia is tailored to the age, health, and any special needs of each patient.

An ECG (electrocardiogram) and a mini blood panel is recommended for all cats prior to anesthesia. The mini panel will alert the veterinarian to kidney, liver, or glucose abnormalities before anesthesia and/or surgery is attempted. Additional tests may be recommended to avoid serious problems during surgery or dental procedures. An ECG will alert the veterinarian to a potential heart problem that should be explored and a diagnosis made to ensure the safety of the patient before anesthesia and surgery.

St. Louis Cat Clinic uses a pulse oximeter monitor on all patients under anesthesia and during surgery. A pulse oximeter provides a constant read out of the patient's degree of blood oxygen concentration and heart rate. All patients are monitored by a veterinary technician throughout anesthesia and surgery. The patient's temperature, respiratory rate, and capillary refill time are also checked repeatedly during all surgery, dental, and anesthesia procedures. All of the monitoring is recorded on an anesthesia monitoring chart. The chart becomes a permanent part of each patient's medical record.



There are some surgical procedures that the veterinarians believe should have additional monitoring based on the patient's age, health, length of anesthesia, and additional concerns about the individual patient. St. Louis Cat Clinic will also chart and monitor, blood pressure, IV fluid rates, and respiratory rate.

All monitoring is done to assure the safest possible procedure and a positive outcome. Any changes in the patient are noted immediately and addressed rapidly to prevent an adverse event.

Patients receiving IV fluids have warmed fluids. An IV fluid warmer is standard procedure at St. Louis Cat Clinic. The maintenance of body temperature during anesthesia and surgery is critical for a positive outcome and a rapid recovery. Warm water surgery mats are used under patients to maintain body temperature. Warming disks also provide safe heat support during and after surgery. Warm towels are used during and after surgical and dental procedures.

Heat support is continued for all patients after surgery and post dental procedures,. A pulse oximeter is used on all patients after anesthesia, surgery, and dentistry procedures until the patient is awake and able to move.

The control of post surgery and dentistry pain is also critical to comfort and recovery. All patients are assessed and treated, if necessary, to ensure relief from pain. There are medications with various modes of action and length of action available for use. No patient will go home suffering from pain.

The above is the standard of care for all patients at St. Louis Cat Clinic to include spay, neuter, dental cleaning. Cats are frequently second class citizens at some companion animal practices. Anesthesia is often used that is administered by injection only. Products such as Telazol and Ketamine will immobilize a cat during surgery but leave the cat without pain relief while a spay, neuter, dental/tooth extraction is done. Sometimes no anesthesia monitoring, heat support or pain control is provided for cats. Older patients especially may not recover well from injection anesthesia and remain sleepy and non-responsive for days.

For more information, call the St. Louis Cat Clinic at 314-832-2287, or visit them at 3460 Hampton Avenue.