



10 Questions you should ask your veterinarian **BEFORE** anesthesia

1. Does the veterinarian perform a pre-anesthetic exam prior to administering ANY medications?
2. Do you tailor an anesthetic protocol to every specific patient or do you simply use a formula to determine how much medication to administer by weight?
3. Do you place an IV catheter in EVERY patient to ensure quick access to the cardiovascular system in the event of an emergency *and* provide adequate fluid therapy during the procedure? Proper hydration is essential for a quick and safe recovery from anesthesia.
4. What monitoring equipment is used during the anesthetic procedure: pulse-oximetry (oxygen saturation of blood), blood pressure monitoring, ECG monitoring (to evaluate cardiac activity), core body temperature, etc.
5. Do you monitor for ETCO₂ changes (capnography): an often overlooked but extremely important parameter that determines how well a patient is breathing and exchanging gases within the lungs.
6. Is an anesthetic log created with documentation every 5 minutes for monitoring of anesthesia and included in the patient's medical record for accountability and evaluation? This is to be completed by a trained surgical technician during every procedure.
7. Is the patient ALWAYS monitored by someone other than the veterinarian throughout the entire procedure until the patient is extubated (tube removal)?
8. Are multiple surgeries performed with the same surgical instruments creating a potential for cross-contamination and decreasing sterility?
9. Are individually wrapped suture and surgical gloves used for EVERY procedure?
10. Is the veterinarian available by phone and/or in person after-hours for ANY questions or concerns you might have during the evening and night of the procedure?