

dr. alexander pack
dr. karl scherer
dr. sandra kehr

hüttenstraße 20
66583 spiesen-elversberg
tel. 06821-179494

mail@tierklinik-elversberg.de
www.tierklinik-elversberg.de
montag bis freitag 9.00-19.00 uhr

tierklinik elversberg

Operations on Small Animals – Important information about anaesthesia and postoperative care

Please note that small pets should never fast before impending operation (as opposed to dogs and cats that must fast). On the day of surgery feed them the usual amount of food to avoid digestive problems. An exception may be animals, especially guinea pigs that are undergoing a procedure to straighten teeth under general anaesthesia. These should not feed independently, but be force-fed with a paste (With food mash in the oral cavity, it can be difficult to see and teeth straightening then becomes difficult) - they should not be fed in the two hours before surgery.

Ensure that transport to the hospital is as stress free as possible – please use clean towels (no straw or sawdust) as a base in the transport box. The box itself should be well ventilated and large enough. Partner animals may also be brought along (in the case of a hospital stay the partner animal is accommodated for free) - this minimises the stress on the individual animal and promotes rapid recovery.

Please note in warm weather that animals should not be transported in a hot car – small animals are very vulnerable to heatstroke because they lack the ability to actively sweat.

Compared to dogs and cats small animals have a higher anaesthetic risk due to their small size (increased heat loss, low tolerance to narcotics) and their sensitive digestive tract. That's why we use a completely antagonisable injectable anaesthesia (so to avoid a long post-operative sleep) along with the inhalation anaesthesia (the animals wake quickly as the gas is exhaled rapidly after completion of the procedure)

Rabbits, guinea pigs etc should eat immediately upon awakening from anaesthesia in order to avoid digestive problems, such as hypomotility and bloating. It is best to bring one serving of your pet's usual feed so there is no change in diet and the digestive tract is not additionally burdened.

So that your animal recovers quickly after an operation, please note the following regarding postoperative care at home:

- Administer medications which your pet has been given, with the specified dosage at the specified times
- Weigh your pet once a day on the kitchen scale – it should maintain its weight
- Pay attention to good general health, a good feed intake and normal amounts urine and faeces – if your pet has an abnormal general condition, consult a veterinarian promptly.
- After neutering or abdominal surgery, patients should be kept on soft, clean towels for a few days after the procedure, in order to avoid straw becoming caught in the sutures.
- By nibbling (especially in rodents) or intensively cleaning (especially in rabbits) the suture it is possible for the animals to remove the sutures themselves.
- Make sure to check the sutures once a day – so, in such a case, you can act in time.
- Please note in case of castration, that male animals may be fertile for up to six weeks after castration - socialisation with females is best done only after about eight weeks.

Feel free to contact us with further questions you may have.

