

Here at the Virginia Beach SPCA we recommend having pre-surgical bloodwork run on any pet going under anesthesia; for dogs over the age of 5 or cats over the age of 7, bloodwork is required unless a waiver is signed. Pre-anesthetic blood screening before any surgery is important. While most healthy animals are at minimal risk for complications during an elective surgery such as a neuter or spay, there is always a chance that an animal might have an underlying problem that may not manifest itself until the animal is put under anesthesia. It's important to ensure that your pet can properly process and then eliminate the anesthetic he or she is given.

Four important reasons your pet should have pre-anesthetic bloodwork are:

- Testing can significantly reduce medical risk and ensure your pet's health and safety.
- A healthy-appearing pet may be hiding symptoms of a disease or ailment. For example, a pet can lose up to 75% of kidney function before showing any visible signs of illness. Testing helps us evaluate your pet's health up front, so we can avoid problems related to anesthesia.
- If pre-anesthetic results are within normal ranges, we can proceed with confidence, knowing that anesthetic risk is minimized. On the other hand, if results are not within the normal ranges, we can alter the anesthetic procedure, or take other precautions to safeguard your pet's health and reduce the risk of potential complications.
- These tests provide baseline levels for your pet and become part of his or her medical record for future reference.

If your pet has significant abnormalities on bloodwork, you may be asked to schedule an appointment with your vet before or after surgery to determine what treatment or further testing may be needed for your pet.

If your pet falls into an age bracket where bloodwork is required and you are unable or unwilling to have pre-anesthetic bloodwork performed for your pet, you will be asked to sign the waiver outlined below. In this situation, it will be up to the veterinarian to determine whether she feels comfortable proceeding with the surgery.

DECLINED BLOODWORK WAIVER:

I, as the owner of the above listed pet, understand that I am declining DIAGNOSTIC BLOODWORK that has been recommended by the veterinarian. I further acknowledge that I understand the inherent risks of declining this and waive all claims arising out of, or connected with, the performance of this treatment.

Client Initials _____

For VBSPCA Clinic Clients:

This waiver will be printed and signed on your pre-invoice at the time of check-in for surgery.

For VBSPCA Neuter Scooter Clients:

Please sign this form to be attached to the Surgery Release Form.