



Ten Questions to ask your Vet 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. Is the pre-anesthetic blood work done on every patient to check their hydration, liver and kidney function, and white blood cell count (a good indicator of infection)?
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)?
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 for monitoring of anesthesia and included in the patient's medical record for accountability and evaluation?
7. Is the patient ALWAYS monitored by a member of the health care team throughout the entire procedure until the patient is extubated (tube removal)?
8. Are individually wrapped suture and surgical gloves used for EVERY procedure?
9. Are individually wrapped surgical packs used for each patient creating no potential for cross-contamination and ensuring sterility?
10. What options are available if I have questions or an emergency after-hours? South Des Moines Veterinary Center has a partnership with Iowa Veterinary Specialists so a veterinarian is available to assist you in any way possible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.