

## Anesthesia and Sedation for Radiation Therapy

If your pet is undergoing radiation therapy they will have to stay very still during treatment requiring the use of sedation and general anesthesia. There is a small risk associated with all anesthesia and sedation, however our team will examine your pet before each treatment and they will be monitored closely throughout the procedure.

*To make anesthesia as safe as possible, all pets undergoing treatment must have a pre-anesthetic work-up including bloodwork, and possibly x-rays or a cardiac ultrasound if indicated. Any risks specific to your pet will be explained thoroughly to you by a veterinarian.*

### **Before treatments:**

**\* Your pet must be fasted, meaning NO food after midnight the evening before.** It is ok to allow water unless directed otherwise. This helps to keep your pet from regurgitation and aspirating stomach contents into their airway.

**\* You may be asked to give or withhold certain medications on the day of treatments - please let us know about all medication or supplements you give them. If medications must be given in the morning you may give with a small treat. Please give ALL medication as instructed.**

### **After treatments:**

**\*Your pet will have an "IV" or intravenous catheter placed which does require a small shaved area on the limbs and will have a wrap placed after its removal. -Please remember to remove this wrap when you get home.** If your pet will be receiving daily treatments we may leave a special IV in place for the week that will be wrapped and have a sleeve guard in place to avoid damage to it. If this is the case please do NOT remove this wrap and keep it clean, dry, and free from damage.

**\*Your pet will have a tube placed into their airway during anesthesia which may cause some irritation or a slight cough afterwards that improves quickly. If the cough worsens or continues, please let us know.**

Your pet will likely have multiple treatments and our goal is to keep their daily quality of life as close to normal as possible for the duration. While we do our best to ensure that your pet bounces back quickly from each treatment, they may experience some drowsiness, agitation, nausea, diarrhea, or decreased appetite after each treatment. It is very normal for your pet to be "unlike their usual self" for 12 to 24 hours afterwards. We make their comfort and quality of life our priority and work hard to make this as comfortable a process as we can.