

# What to Know About Your Pets and Anesthesia

Anesthesia and sedation are routine practices in the veterinary hospital, but they aren't for pet owners! So, what is the difference? Why do we need it? And should you be concerned about it?



## Sedation

Is the reduction of irritability or agitation by administration of sedative drugs, to facilitate a medical or diagnostic procedure.

Sedation is often used to help your pet have a more positive experience while at the hospital.



**Did you know?**  
**Contrast used for CT can cause anaphylaxis in rare cases. Every pet is unique in how they respond to drugs!**



## Anesthesia

Is a state of controlled, temporary loss of sensation or awareness that is induced for medical or veterinary purposes. Depending on what drugs are used analgesia, paralysis, amnesia, and unconsciousness are produced.

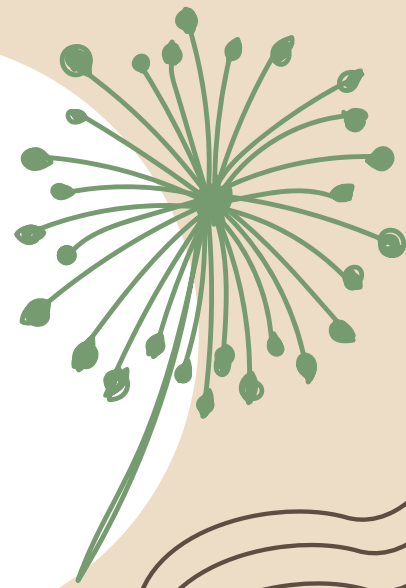
Anesthesia is used for procedures that are deemed more invasive (such as spays, neuters, foreign body surgery, etc.).



# Complications

Unfortunately, just like with people, there is always the risk of complication when your pet is undergoing a procedure.

These can be as mild as delayed recovery, hypothermia, and decreased GI motility. Or as severe as hemorrhage, aspiration pneumonia, anaphylactic shock from IV medication, or even death.



According to research articles, risk of death was 0.05–0.17% in dogs and 0.11–0.24% in cats. \*



## Why?

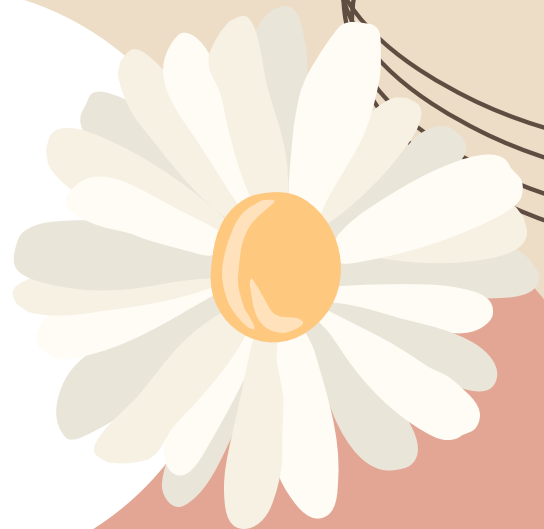
If it can be dangerous, why do we do it?

Veterinarians would not be able to provide gold-standard medical care to pets without it. Many procedures varying from routine to life-saving require the use of anesthesia. Sedation is important for keeping your pet and the veterinary staff safe during visits and non-invasive procedures.

# The Veterinarian and Staff

It is our goal to maintain your pet's safety, monitor their vital functions closely, and ensure they recover smoothly from anesthesia or sedation.

Should an adverse anesthetic event occur, our team will do everything we can to medically assist your pet. With any anesthetic or sedated procedure there can be additional unforeseen costs not included with your estimate if an adverse event occurs.



\*Dave Brodbelt MA, et al. "Feline Anesthetic Deaths in Veterinary Practice." Topics in Companion Animal Medicine, W.B. Saunders, 10 Dec. 2010, [www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1938973610000723?via%3Dihub](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1938973610000723?via%3Dihub).

\*Shoop, Stephanie JW., et al. Mortality Related to General Anaesthesia and Sedation in Dogs under UK Primary Veterinary Care - Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia, 29 June 2022, [www.vaajournal.org/article/S1467-2987\(22\)00101-5/fulltext](http://www.vaajournal.org/article/S1467-2987(22)00101-5/fulltext).