

Mews & News

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RIVERSIDE CAT HOSPITAL

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Taking the Mystery Out of Anesthesia

In our last newsletter, we discussed anesthesia, and what is involved when your pet undergoes anesthesia at a veterinary hospital. In this issue, we lay out some points and questions that you may want to discuss with your veterinarian if your pet needs to undergo anesthesia.

When working with young, healthy patients for elective surgery, such as a spay or neuter, a simple, straightforward approach to choosing anesthetic drugs and doses can be taken. In some cases,

however, there are health concerns that can complicate the planning of safe anesthesia. Heart disease is the most concerning problem, but other diseases, such as kidney failure, hyperthyroidism, or diabetes must be considered as well. Each patient must be evaluated individually to determine the drugs and doses that would be the safest and most effective. There is no one single anesthetic protocol

that is the safest for every patient.

There are rare cases involving pets in poor health, where the risk involved in anesthetizing the pet outweighs the benefit to be gained from the procedure. However, these patients are few and far between. Remember, old age is not a reason to forego a potentially beneficial procedure. Many cats over 20 years old have been safely

Traveling With Your Cat

With the holidays right around the corner, now is the time to make plans for your cats while you are traveling to visit family. Many of us leave these important details until the last minute, but there are steps that you should take while you are still in the early stages of planning your trip.

Sometimes, leaving your cat at home with a petsitter, or boarding her at a kennel facility, is the best option. We do not recommend leaving your cat alone for more than 48 hours without

someone to care for her. If your cat is going to be traveling with you, there are some important issues to consider.

Cats traveling by car often settle down after 15-30 minutes, and can do well for longer rides. Sedatives or medications for motion sickness can be helpful if your cat does not ride well. For her safety, your cat should be confined in a carrier and offered water at least every 4 hours. Withhold food at least 8 hours prior to the trip to prevent

motion sickness. Be sure the carrier is kept cool, and if it is large enough, a small litter tray in the corner can be helpful.

Cats traveling by plane in the passenger cabin must be confined in a carrier that conforms to the airlines size restrictions. Due to changes in cabin air pressure, sedation for cats during air travel can be dangerous, and is not routinely recommended. Medications for motion sickness can be used. Transportation of cats in the airplane



Taking the Mystery Out of Anesthesia, cont.

anesthetized to address a variety of health problems.

Of course, the best person to determine the safest anesthetic plan for your pet is your veterinarian! Veterinarians who take anesthetic safety seriously will strive to keep up with the latest anesthesia and pain control research, drug protocols, and techniques, and employ a dedicated assistant and monitoring equipment with every anesthetic case. Here are some questions you can use to help guide a conversation with your veterinarian:

*Why does my cat need to undergo anesthesia? What are the potential benefits of the procedure, and the potential risks?

*Do you have a set anesthetic protocol for all patients, or do you chose drugs and doses individually for each patient?

*How have you kept up with advances in veterinary anes-

thesia? Are you using drugs, protocols, and monitors that are up to the current standard-of-care?

*How do you address pain control? Do you use pain control prior to any painful procedures?



*Will my cat have an IV catheter with fluids, and a breathing tube in place during anesthesia?

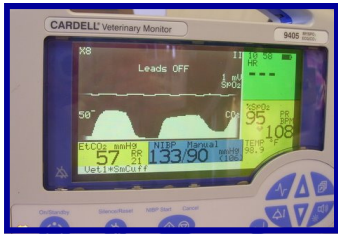
*How will my cat be monitored during anesthesia? Will blood pressure be monitored? Will there be an assistant dedicated to monitoring my cat, or will the veterinarian be "monitoring" anesthesia and performing surgery at the

same time?

*Where will my cat be recovered from anesthesia? Is there a quiet area, away from barking and other loud noises? Will he be monitored until he is sitting up on his own?

*How long will my cat need to stay in the hospital after anesthesia? Can he go home the same day? If so, are there any special considerations for home care following anesthesia?

With careful planning and patient evaluation, anesthesia can be performed safely on most veterinary patients. Don't let your concerns about anesthesia place your cat's health at risk. Find a veterinarian that you can trust, and be open with him or her about your concerns. You can work together to give your cat a long and healthy life!



Monitors are used during anesthesia to ensure that a patient's vital parameters are stable. A detailed log of the anesthesia and monitoring is kept on each patient. Levels measured include body temperature, pulse, respiratory rate, carbon dioxide levels, blood oxygen levels, and blood pressure. Small changes in these parameters can alert the doctor to problems when there is still time for intervention.

Traveling With Your Cat, cont.

cargo hold is not recommended.

Interstate health certificates are recommended for travel to another state. Those traveling to Canada may be required to show proof of a current rabies vaccination. International travel requirements vary depending on the country of destination,

but it is recommended to start planning at least 6 months in advance. Requirements for the UK, Europe, Australia, and Hawaii tend to be the most stringent. Many airlines also require a health certificate, signed within 10 days of the scheduled flight. Check with your airline for details.

When traveling, it is a good idea to take a copy of your pet's current vaccines, as well as any relevant history. If you will be staying for more than a few weeks, establish your cat with a local veterinarian so that you can get help if an emergency arises.



Ask Izzy

Dear Izzy,

It seems like you are always busy supervising at the clinic. How do you find time for yourself?

Signed, Frazzled

Dear Frazzled,

Despite all my duties and responsibilities here at the clinic, I know I can't forget to take

care of the really important stuff. Namely, me. Between keeping an eye on the front desk and greeting clients and delivery people, there is not always a lot of time left over for rest and personal reflection.

However, I always try to make time every day to lounge in my window bed and watch the birds. I have also trained the staff here to pick a little fresh grass for me every day, and to

play fetch with me (I knock toys off the counter, they fetch them!) It's a tough life, but the rewards make it all worthwhile!

Signed, Izzy



Izzy, our Resident Cat, likes to help out around the clinic by answering questions from our patients and their families. If you have a question for Izzy, you can send it to her via mail, or e-mail from our website, www.RiversideCatHospital.com, and click on the *contact us* link.

In Memoriam

In memory of those kitties who have left us in the past 3 months— They give so much and demand so little in return.



Babykins V.

Blue S.

Chevy B.

Jorge C.

Larry D.

Pepper W.

Soxie C.

Justin Ottinger

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to the Rainbow Bridge.

There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable. All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; his eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together....

Employee Spotlight

Dr. Kerry Lewis is the owner of Riverside Cat Hospital. She is a 1999 graduate of the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine. She enjoys traveling with her husband, Andrew. Their most recent trip was to Prague this past July. "It's so beautiful there. All

the buildings and churches are old— many dating from the 14th century. There are no paved streets in the center of town, only cobblestones. It is impressive to see what people were able to accomplish back then, in terms of architecture, art, and civil engi-

neering. I'd love to go back someday."



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CARING FOR YOUR CATS
AS MUCH AS YOU DO.

Want to receive this newsletter electronically? Send your email address to us at the.cat.vet@gmail.com, give us a call, or visit our website at www.RiversideCatHospital.com to sign up!



Riverside Cat Hospital was opened in 2006 by Dr. Kerry Lewis. She is a 1999 graduate of Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine, and lives in East Lansing with her husband, Andrew, and 3 children. They have 3 cats.

Our mission is to provide compassionate care to our feline friends, helping them to live longer, happier lives. We are cat people too! We understand the special bond that you have with your cats.

If you have friends or family with cats who might benefit from a more personalized, compassionate feline veterinary experience, please let them know about us! We are happy to provide a tour of our clinic anytime.

The Last Word...

Well, we'll soon be heading into fall again. In September, we will celebrate our 2 year anniversary! Thank you to all of you who have helped us to reach this milestone!

Since our last newsletter came out, there have been several happenings here at the clinic. Izzy started getting her regular allergy injections. She does seem to be showing some small improvement, but there is still a long way to go until she has all her hair back!



We started offering wellness packages in May, and I am very pleased with the

number of clients who have signed their cats up. It is nice to see how much you care about your pets! Our economy has not been the greatest lately, but our clients still manage to find the resources to take good care of their cats. Thank you!

Recent data coming from the State reports that cases of Rabies are trending towards a 4-fold increase over last year! Most of the new cases involve bats, but infections in dogs, cats, skunks, raccoons, and foxes have been reported. Please make sure your cats are up-to-date on this critical vaccine! We have received several phone calls from

clients whose indoor cats have caught bats in the house.

Finally, we continue to work with the Ingham County Animal Shelter to spay and neuter cats, and also participated in a couple of their community adoption and vaccination events. Thank you to everyone at the shelter for all your hard work in caring for these animals!

Until next time,

Dr. Kerry Lewis

