

Preparing Anxious Dogs for Surgery

Our goal is to make their experience at the shelter as stress free as possible. If a dog is already anxious and we do surgery, we may make the dog even more fearful the next time he or she needs to go to a veterinary clinic. We feel like your dog would benefit from medication to reduce the stress of coming to the clinic and would like to try the following:

- Purchase a basket muzzle and get your dog accustomed to wearing it prior to the day of the appointment
- Give a dose of gabapentin the evening before surgery
- Repeat the dose of gabapentin along with acepromazine 1 ½ hours before your drop off appointment
- Bring your dog into the shelter with the basket muzzle already on
- We will have you take a seat in the lobby when you come in. Try and stay quiet.
(Sometimes paying a lot of attention to your dog makes him or her think that you find the situation stressful, too.)

We will sedate your dog in the lobby and s/he will be the first dog on our surgery schedule for the day. We generally allow anxious dogs to wake up with someone present in a quiet place and then continue to monitor them until pick up time.

Thanks for your cooperation,
Amy Tyler, DVM