

## AAHA Approved Surgical Standard

**Laser** – Cauterizes skin as it incises – less bleeding and allows for faster healing time

**IV catheter** – Allows for an access point if there are any drugs are needed in an emergency state

**Fluids** – Keeps your pet hydrated during the procedure, which is important for recovery

**CRI (Constant Rate Infusion)** – A system that allows a constant flow of fluids, such as a mixture of ketamine and other analgesia medications, into the blood stream so we do not need to use as much inhalant anesthesia (isoflurane). Using multiple drugs allows us to use less amounts of them, keeping your pet as safe as possible while under anesthesia.

**Technician monitoring** – With individualized surgery, there is a technician for each pet that focuses solely on your pet's blood pressure, oxygenation, and heart rate during the procedure. While there are monitors that help notify us when things are not going well, our technicians are able to catch abnormal trends before the monitor does.

**Local anesthesia** – Analgesia that is used to numb the area where the incision will be made on your pet. This helps with reducing the amount of pain that your pet experiences.

**Endotracheal tube** – Allows your pet to have a clear airway in which to breathe oxygen and isoflurane. Also protects your pet's airway from inhaling foreign material, such as vomit.

**Oxygen with Isoflurane** – A machine that combines the oxygen and isoflurane and directs the gases into the endotracheal (or ET) tube. Using both of these gases will help keep your pet asleep during its procedure.

**Monitors** – Allows us to keep an eye on how your pet is doing by monitoring their blood pressure, oxygenation, heart rate, and ECG. If any issues arise, the monitor alerts us and we are able to start working on your pet before the situation becomes critical.

**Pain management** – Pain is managed while under anesthesia as well as sent home with additional pain medications for the following days after the procedure.

**Therapy laser** – This is a warm light that we use on your pet AFTER the procedure to stimulate healing and reproduction of cells.

## Shelter/TNR Surgical Standard

**Scalpel** – An instrument, like the laser, that is used to make the incision for surgery.

**Injectable anesthesia** – A fast and effective way to knock down an animal. Occasionally oxygen and isoflurane is used in combination but with a mask instead of an ET tube.

**Pain management:** Pain is managed with an injectable medication for the first day. Typically, your pet is given an additional dose of pain medications for the next couple days. Feral/outdoor cats do NOT receive any further pain medications other than the injection.

**Note:** The following is NOT done by shelters or TNR services: use of a laser, IV catheters, given IV fluids/CRI, intubated with an ET tube, and not hooked up to monitors during surgery. They will also not receive laser therapy after surgery.