



# Noah's Ark Animal Hospital

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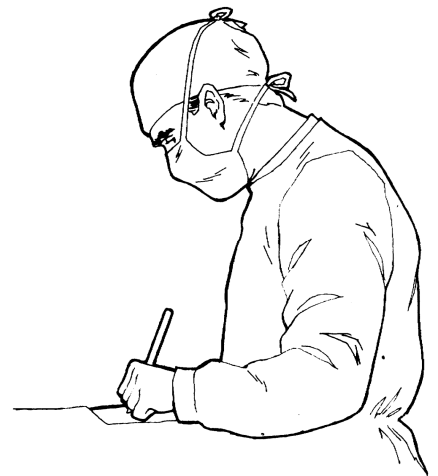
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## *Lumpectomy (Lump Removal)*

The doctor has recommended that your dog or cat undergo an lumpectomy surgery, which is the surgical removal of a growth or lump, usually located somewhere on or under your pets skin. Now that the doctor has made this recommendation, you are encouraged to schedule the procedure as soon as possible

### Why should I have the lump removed?

In some cases, the doctor will recommend removing a lump(s) that was discussed at physical examination because of suspicion raised based on the feel, location or appearance of the lump. It is very important to realize that many benign and malignant (bad cancer) tumors sometimes can overlap in appearance and characteristics, especially when first developing. For this reason, the doctor may recommend removal of some potentially benign tumors, just to be safe. Once the tumor/ lump is removed, the only way to know for sure the tumor type, whether it is benign or malignant, and if all of it was removed is to send the removed tissue into a pathologist. The pathologist will examine the tissue under a microscope to provide an exact diagnosis and, hopefully, peace of mind. The risks of lumpectomy are rare and are related to anesthetic complications, infection and seroma formation. Sometimes, depending on the location and size of tumor removed, a drain may need to be placed to help avoid seroma formation. If a drain is placed, you will be educated, at the time of discharge how to care for the drain.



### What exactly is done?

An incision is made around the lump, including enough skin around the lump, in an effort to get all parts of the lump removed. If a large open space results, fluid will tend to accumulate in the space left behind. In this case, a drain is placed to keep the fluid from accumulating. Sutures and/or staples are then used to bring the skin edges back together until healed.

### What do I need to do to prepare my pet?

It is important that anesthesia be administered on an empty stomach to reduce the risk of vomiting while under anesthesia and during the recovery period. For this reason, we ask that you take up your pet's food at 8:00 p.m. the night before surgery. Please allow your pet to have water at all times to avoid dehydration.

Be sure you have reviewed the handout on anesthesia before arriving the morning of surgery. **Please arrive promptly at your arranged admission appointment time, and be sure to allow 10-15 minutes of time for paperwork and decision making.** If you have reviewed the anesthesia handout you will be able to make informed decisions at this time. Please inform or remind the admitting nurse about any procedures that you wish to be completed while your pet is here (e.g. nail trimming, microchipping, lump removal, etc.).

Most procedures are done mid-day and early afternoon, allowing the morning to run any blood work, and/or administer presurgical calming medications. For elective surgeries, **please call after 3:00 p.m. for updates and to schedule an end of day discharge for your pet** (usually between 4:00-5:00).

We will call you the night before your scheduled surgery appointment, to confirm the date and to answer any questions you might have. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to call us with any questions about your pet's surgery!

\_\_\_\_\_’s surgery is scheduled for \_\_\_\_\_, admission at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m.