



## PRE-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

### Before the operation

- **Cats and dogs** should not be given any food after **8 pm** the night before the operation. Water should be available at all times.
- **Ferrets** should be starved for no longer than 4-6 hours prior to surgery so it is advisable to remove food early on the morning of any anaesthesia. Water should be made available at all times.
- **Rabbits, guinea pigs, chinchillas, rats, hamsters, gerbils and mice** must not be starved of food or water. A water bottle and a small bag of its usual food (labelled) brought in with your pet would be extremely helpful.
- Cats should be kept in overnight with a litter tray and they should be brought to the hospital in a secure basket. Dogs should be exercised on the morning of admission to ensure that they go to the toilet.
- Labelling of items such as leads, collars and baskets to be left with your pet would be a great help.
- In the interest of a safe recovery, some patients may need to stay in hospital overnight. The wards are warm and comfortable and nurses are on site throughout the day and night 24/7.
- Admission of animals for operations is between **7.30 am and 9.00 am**. You will be asked to read and sign a consent form at this time. A person can only do this if over the age of 18 years. There may be a short wait.
- Collection of your pet after its operation is normally between 4 pm and 7 pm. You will receive instructions about how to care for your pet after the operation and be able to make appointments for check ups. The nurse will telephone you to let you know when your pet is ready to go home. If you have not heard from the hospital by 4 pm, then please telephone for an update on your pet's progress.
- Payment is expected on collection of your pet. If you have any queries or concerns about payment, please discuss these before your pets operation.
- Please ensure that we are able to contact you in person on the day of your pet's operation at all times. Please note that although patients are often admitted early in the day, procedures are carried out over the course of the whole day resulting in some patients not being operated on till the afternoon. We will endeavour to update you as early as possible if your pet is likely to be discharged later on than anticipated. Please accept our apologies in advance if an emergency procedure means that your pet's procedure is delayed.

.....'s operation is booked for  
..... 200  
(Day) (Date)