

## Checklist of what to ask

In order to make informed decisions, a chart details what our surgical procedures involve. Use it to compare our procedures with those of other facilities.

	NHAH	Other clinic
Pre-anesthetic blood testing.....yes.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pre-operative sedatives.....yes.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Post-operative pain medication.....yes.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General anesthesia.....yes.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anesthetic monitoring capabilities:		
EKG.....yes.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pulse Oximeter.....yes.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blood Pressure.....yes.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dedicated anesthetist.....yes.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IV catheter and fluids.....yes.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nerve blocks for declaws.....yes.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff member to hold patients- as they awake.....yes.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Post surgical pain medications.....yes.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Detailed aftercare instructions.....yes.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

New Hope Animal Hospital has served the northwest communities of greater Minneapolis since 1975. For three generations offering quality veterinary care for the most important members of your family. The hospital is accredited by the American Animal Hospital Association. This accreditation ensures that the hospital is in full compliance with the associations highest quality standards of care. Great medical care can only be provided by knowledgeable and dedicated veterinarians, unsurpassed modern technology, and most important a caring staff dedicated to enhancing the life quality of every pet.



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## New Hope Animal Hospital

# A Guide To Comparing Veterinary Surgical Services



## Why is it important to ask the right questions?

If you want the care for your cherished pet that equals what you expect for yourself or a family member, investigate the quality of care offered by any veterinarian. Similar sounding procedures, when examined in detail, differ at veterinary hospitals.

To receive quality care, choose a hospital with high standards. When inquiring about services, ask what is included in the procedure. Inquire who will perform the procedure, what their training level is, and what anesthetic monitors are used. A quality clinic should be happy to talk about these factors. The clinic should willingly provide a tour of their facilities.

Having the appropriate information will help make an informed choice as to the health care level desired for your family pet. Consider the following:

### ●Pre-anesthetic blood testing:

This makes sure that your pet's internal organs, such as the kidneys and liver, are functioning correctly.

### ●Pre-operative pain medication:

Studies show that pain medication given before a procedure is more effective in preventing pain than medication given after the procedure.

●**Anesthetic monitoring:** The electrocardiogram, blood oxygen level and blood pressure measurements are very important. They point to early signs of anesthetic problems when those problems can still be fixed.

●**Dedicated anesthetist:** It is vitally important for your pet's safety that someone is present during the procedure whose only task is to monitor your pet. Would you be comfortable going under anesthesia if the only person in the room with you was the person performing the procedure?

●**IV catheter and fluids:** An IV catheter allows instant access to the circulatory system if any emergency drugs need to be given. IV fluids keep blood pressure in a safe range and help preserve kidney function during anesthesia.

●**Nerve blocks for declaws:** Local anesthetic should be used before performing the declaw procedure. This reduces the pain associated with this procedure leading to a faster recovery.



●**Post-surgical pain medication:** Any patient that has had a surgical procedure performed should be provided with pain medication to be given after surgery and provided for home comfort.

●**Staff member to hold your pet:** A member of our staff will comfort your pet if needed as they awake from their surgery. The power of touch reduces pain and anxiety.

●**Written aftercare instructions:** Post surgical aftercare instructions are important so that you know how to care for your pet, know what is normal after the procedure and who to call if you have problems.

