



VCSG

Veterinary Care & Specialty Group

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24/7/365



423-591-0270

August 2020

In this edition.....
Surgery - Neurology Schedule (p. 1)
Ask the Vet (pp. 2-4)
Upcoming event (below)
Vader's "Friends of the Month" (p. 2)
Welcome Hospital Manager (p. 5)
CE Conference (p. 6)

**Veterinary Care &
Specialty Group
Fourth Annual
Continuing Education
Conference
August 22, 2020**

**OUR NEW HOSPITAL
IS OPEN!!**

**New address:
3201 Broad Street
Chattanooga, TN 37408
Call VCSG 423-591-0270**

SURGERY NEUROLOGY FULL TIME

**VCSG is pleased to
announce that the
Surgery and Neurology
Specialties are serving
our patients full time.**

**Dr. Christiane Massicotte
will be seeing Neurology
patients Monday through
Thursday.**

**Dr. Ray Rudd will be seeing
surgery patients Monday
through Wednesday.**

**Dr. Jeff Peck will be seeing
surgery patients Tuesday
through Friday.**

**Please call VCSG for more
information.**



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Vader's Friends of the Month



Vader Pullen

Our 2020 CE Sponsors

CareCredit

Chattanooga School of Language

Laurie Stevens

David, Louise, Jackson, Mabry Cook

Hamico

IDEXX

Miller Veterinary Supply

Mtn. View Auto Group

Royal Canin

Sam Turnipseed

Southern Heritage Bank

The Mark Hite Team

TransMed South

Ask the Vet:

Helping You Understand the Anesthetic Process

P.K. Hendrix

DVM, PhD, Dipl ACVAA

Veterinary Anesthesiologist



Your pet is scheduled for a procedure requiring anesthesia, and you are worried because anesthesia is scary, right? Here at VCSG we understand your concerns and try our best to ensure that your pet will receive the best anesthetic care we can provide. Whether your furry family member is scheduled for diagnostic procedures such as endoscopy or a CT scan, or undergoing surgery, we are always by its side, paying attention to details!



(Continued from previous page)

Before anesthetizing each pet, we want to know some things about its medical history. If it had previous sedatives or anesthesia and had issues, let us know. We are usually able to make changes that will improve the next experience. Additionally, tell us if your dog or cat is taking supplements or medications, especially heart drugs or pain medications. This knowledge can help us tailor the drugs we use to minimize adverse events.

Certain breeds are "special" regarding sedation and anesthesia. Brachycephalic (stubby-nosed) breeds such as English bulldogs, pugs, Boston terriers, French bulldogs, and Persian cats are at increased risk of upper airway blockages when they are heavily sedated or anesthetized. These animals are at special risk when recovering from anesthesia, because as they wake up, the airway tube must be removed to keep the pet from biting the tube. Unfortunately, residual sedation and their airway anatomy increase the likelihood of airway obstruction that can be life-threatening if not noticed. We watch all our patients closely during the recovery period to ensure they do not have problems such as obstruction. Additional breeds that can have special anesthetic concerns include giant breed dogs, Doberman pinschers, Boxer dogs, and Cavalier King Charles spaniels. These dogs occasionally have heart conditions that may warrant additional tests such as an ECG or cardiac ultrasound to determine the severity of disease before anesthesia. If your pet is extremely sick or has severe trauma, its risk of having anesthetic difficulties are greater than if it is relatively healthy; but the risk of death is still low. Our team of highly skilled veterinary technicians and veterinarians work together to secure the best outcome possible for your debilitated or traumatized animal.

We love our geriatric pet friends, and we understand that older pets may have conditions requiring special attention. For example, we want to know if your older pet has eyesight or hearing loss, or mentation changes. We will make these conditions known to everyone handling your pet to try to minimize anxiety or confusion. Many geriatric animals have arthritis, heart murmurs, and dental issues that require adjustments to anesthetic plans. Many of us here at VCSG also have old pets, and we treat your geriatric pet (and all pets) as though it was our own!

So, what actually happens during the peri-anesthetic time period? Before you bring your pet to our hospital, we will usually ask you to remove all of your pet's food about six to eight hours prior to hospitalization. A full stomach increases the chance of nausea, vomiting, and regurgitation during anesthesia. Providing water is OK. Once your pet is in the hospital, we will perform a physical examination. We will then clip hair to place an IV catheter in one of its



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(Continued from previous page)

legs (usually a front leg). We then give an anti-nausea drug. We draw blood to check for abnormalities that could impact your pet's health. If you have recently (within the past few weeks) had blood values checked at your referring vet's hospital, you can simply bring that information instead. However, if your pet's condition has changed since its last visit, we may need additional blood tests. Your pet will receive medications before anesthesia to provide calming and to decrease pain. Once the sedatives take effect, we administer the anesthetic medication(s) to cause your pet to temporarily fall asleep. A tube is inserted into its trachea (windpipe) to allow for delivery of oxygen and the inhaled anesthetic agent that maintains sleep and prevents your pet from feeling pain or discomfort during its procedure.

During anesthesia, we will provide warm circulating air to minimize loss of body heat. We continuously monitor heart rate, respirations, blood oxygen levels, and blood pressure. Intravenous fluids are delivered at appropriate rates determined by your pet's condition and surgery. Necessary analgesic drugs are provided during the procedure if warranted. Local anesthetic techniques are frequently a part of the protocol to numb specific areas and allow reduced dosages of general anesthetics.

Following its procedure, your pet is watched closely as it awakens from anesthesia. We provide warmth, additional pain meds, and IV fluids until the dog or cat is awake enough to eat and drink. Following most diagnostic procedures, the pet is typically able to go home that day. After most surgical procedures, your pet will stay overnight to receive close monitoring, pain medications, and supportive care. If your pet was significantly debilitated before anesthesia, it may need longer hospitalization.

Hopefully, this article has taken a bit of the mystery out of what our anesthesia team does here. While anesthesia can be intimidating, we do our best to care for your pet and provide safe-as-possible anesthetic care. If you have anesthetic questions when you bring your pet in for a procedure, please ask!



Joseph, Jimi,
and Buddy
Hendrix

Dr. Hendrix and
husband Mitch





WELCOME TO PAIGE WICHMAN HOSPITAL MANAGER

Paige is a Chattanooga native and received her BA and master's degree from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. After graduating, she moved to New York City and worked for education foundations and UNICEF.

Since returning home to Chattanooga, Paige worked as the Director of Community Engagement at The Montessori School, where she oversaw fundraising, admissions, marketing, communications, and volunteer management.

Away from work, Paige enjoys hiking, reading, photography, and spending time with her family. She has a daughter named Olivia and a son named Sawyer, along with a Boston Terrier (Ivan), a cat (Minka), and a fish (Pancake).

We are so happy to welcome Paige to VCSG!



VETERINARY CARE & SPECIALTY GROUP FOURTH ANNUAL CONTINUING EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2020

VCSG is pleased to announce the Fourth Annual Continuing Education Conference to be held on August 22 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Because of COVID-19, we will be presenting a Zoom Conference this year!

AAVSB RACE approved! No charge to participate.

Doctors are eligible for six hours of CE credit.

Technicians can complete up to eight hours of CE credit.

Schedule

John Lewis, VMD, FAVD, DAVDC

10:00 - 12:00 For the Technicians
Oral Exam and Common Oral Diseases in
Dogs and Cats
Uncommon Oral Diseases in Dogs and Cats -
Dental "Zebras"

12:00 - 2:00 For the Veterinarians
In the Dark...Dental Radiograph Interpretation
in Dogs and Cats
Dental Extraction Complications and
How to Avoid Them

Robert Kennis, DVM, MS, DACVD

2:00 - 4:00
Distribution Patterns and Differential Diagnoses
of Pruritus in Dogs
Antipruritic Therapy for Dogs

Karen Tobias, DVM, MS, DACVS

4:00 - 6:00
Help - My Patient Can't Breathe!
Urinary Surgery Questions and Answers