



#### 4. Drip placement (intra-venous fluids) and intravenous catheter placement

All patients at TAH that receive intravenous anaesthetics have an intravenous catheter placed so that we have access to the vein in case of an emergency and as we believe it is for the benefit of our patients.

General anaesthesia frequently results in a drop of blood pressure due to the effects of the anaesthetic drugs and inevitable blood loss during surgery. The consequences of prolonged low blood pressure include: acute kidney failure, brain damage and even death. The administration of intravenous fluids (i.e. a drip) is the primary measure used to control low blood pressure and allow for rapid administration of drugs directly into the blood stream should an emergency situation develop. Nearly all patients that receive anaesthetics receive a drip, with the exception of young healthy dog and cat spays and castrations and short anaesthetics for x-rays in healthy fit animals. We would also prefer to drip these animals as a routine but cannot do so as a result of costs. Should you wish us to place a drip the cost is R368.

**Please initial:**

- Please drip my pet at **your discretion**. \_\_\_\_\_
- **Yes**, I want my pet to receive a drip. \_\_\_\_\_
- **No**, I do not want my pet to receive a drip. \_\_\_\_\_

#### 5. Supplementary pain control

Animals do not show pain as we do. They do not complain as loudly as we do and they tolerate levels of pain that we could not imagine. It has been shown that humans recover better and faster if they are pain free and it is the same for our pets. We consider painkiller medication as mandatory for the well-being of your animals: imagine yourself having surgery and not receiving painkillers when you wake up.....! *All of our patients receive morphine-like medication as part of surgical pain management and they are given a painkiller / anti-inflammatory injection that lasts for 24 hours as standard therapy.* This should be sufficient for minor surgical procedures. Patients that undergo larger operations are discharged with pain medication for at least 5 day post surgery.

Dog and cat spays and castrations are not, as a routine, sent home with pain medication. However, we would like to send your dog and cat home on additional painkillers / anti-inflammatory medication for 5 days after the spay / castration to make *absolutely* sure that there is no risk of unnecessary discomfort, the cost of which is between R30 and R110, depending on the animal's size.

**Please initial:**

- **Yes**, I want my pet to be discharged with pain medication for 5 days after the operation \_\_\_\_\_
- **No**, I do not want my pet to receive additional pain killers. \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE NOTE:** the vet may supersede this decision, at your cost, in selected cases where it would constitute unethical practice not to provide medication for pain relief.

#### 6. Permanent identification: ID microchip implantation

Microchipping is a permanent method of identifying your pet. It involves the simple injection of a microchip underneath the skin of your pet. The chip contains a unique number that is registered with your pet's details on a central data base. Virtually all humane societies and animal control agencies scan pets for microchips. Most lost pets somehow have lost their collars, which makes this form of identification risky. Bottom line, if you want your pet back, should they become separated from you, you want your pet micro-chipped. If your pet is not yet micro-chipped, we can perform this small procedure to permanently identify your pet. The cost of this is R 261 and a yearly administration fee (R55) is payable to Identipet after the first year.

**Please initial:**

- **Yes**, please microchip my pet. \_\_\_\_\_
- **No**, please do not microchip my pet. \_\_\_\_\_

