

Common Questions Regarding IV Fluid Therapy:

1. Which pets would benefit from IV fluids?

- All patients undergoing anesthesia.
- Patients, who for whatever reason, stop drinking for one day or more.
- Patients who have ingested toxins or eaten large quantities of medications or poisons.
- Patients with organ failure or significant organ disease.
- Patients with profuse vomiting and/or diarrhea.

2. If my pet is having surgery, and an emergency occurs, can IV fluids be started at that time?

Yes, IV fluids can be started at any time during a procedure, or at any point during a patient's hospital stay. However, in an emergency situation, a patient's blood pressure often drops significantly, which causes the veins to constrict (close) and can sometimes make placement of an IV catheter almost impossible. This can delay administration of fluids and reduce their effectiveness if the problem is not corrected in time.

3. Do I have the option to decline IV fluids?

You have the option to decline IV fluids for all elective procedures, such as spaying and neutering, dentals, mass removals and minor procedures. At Packerland Veterinary Center, IV fluids will ALWAYS be used for orthopedic procedures, emergency surgeries, cardiac and thoracic surgery, spinal/neurosurgery, major abdominal procedures and any other major procedure where the severely debilitated status of the patient, duration of time under anesthesia or use of specific medications warrants use of IV fluids to ensure patient safety and comfort. We are very concerned with patient safety and survival during surgery, and the use of IV fluids may be required with certain procedures.

Hours of Operation

Monday 8am - 8pm

Tuesday 8am - 8pm

Wednesday 8am - 8pm
6:30am Early Morning
Check-In

Thursday 8am - 8pm

Saturday 8am - 3pm

Friday 8am - 5pm

Sunday Closed

For more Information or to Schedule a Consultation,
please call: (920) 498-2808 or 800-236-2808.

www.packerlandvet.com



IV FLUID THERAPY



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Often, when we think of people who are in the hospital or having surgery, one of the images that come to mind is the IV catheter and fluids. IV fluids are given to people for a variety of reasons, and for many different medical situations. The same is true for pets.

There are two main indications for IV fluid therapy in pets- surgery and hospitalization (to treat a medical condition). Although each situation has a different set of influencing factors, the benefits of IV fluids are very similar.

The stress of anesthesia can affect the body in many ways. The most significant potential side effect of anesthesia is a reduction in blood pressure. The blood and circulatory system is responsible for carrying adequate amounts of oxygen to organs and tissues. When the blood pressure drops, the delivery of oxygen can be compromised resulting in lower levels of oxygen reaching the organs and tissues. This can affect organ function, and cause life-threatening complications for patients undergoing surgery. Administration of IV fluids during and after anesthesia allows the Veterinarian to control blood pressure fluctuations to prevent and treat emergency situations, while ensuring adequate oxygenation of the organs and tissues. The presence of an IV catheter also allows for direct access to the vein for administration of emergency medications, should they be needed in an emergency situation.

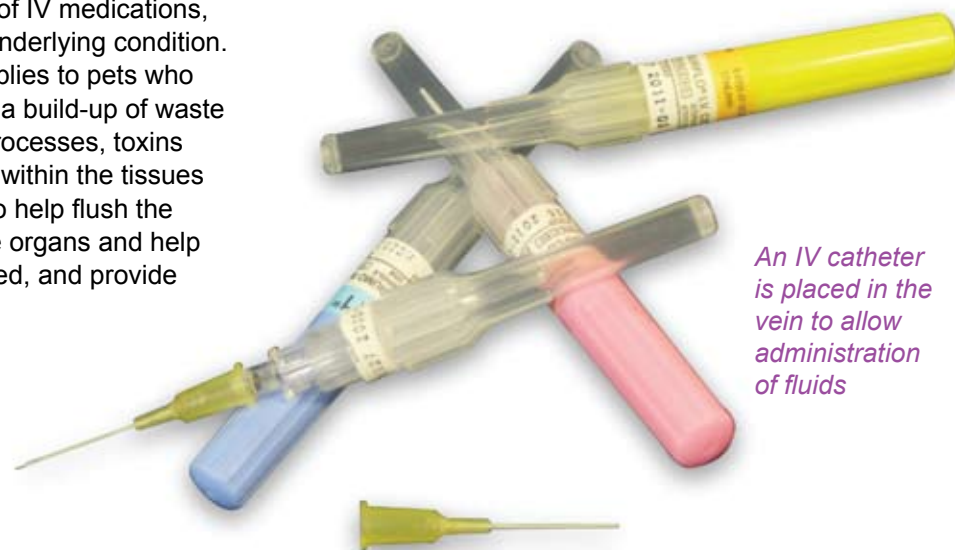


The liver and kidneys are the two main organs responsible for removing toxins, impurities and medications from the body. Patients undergoing surgery, or pets who are sick, will often have blood work performed to assess the function of these organs. Adequate liver and kidney function is essential for patients under anesthesia, as it is these organs that process and remove the anesthesia from the body. If the body is unable to process and remove these medications, they can begin to have a toxic effect and result in severe complications and death. IV fluids given to pets under anesthesia help to support these organs and act to dilute the medications to make them easier to process. By helping to clear the injectable anesthetics from the body, pets will typically recover more quickly and have a smoother recovery from the anesthetic event.

Normal body processes such as urine excretion, fat metabolism and respiration all create waste by-products that the body must remove. When organs such as the liver and kidneys are compromised, toxins from normal body processes can build-up in the blood stream and organs to potentially life threatening levels. Use of IV fluids in these patients can help flush toxins from the body and prevent further organ damage. It can also allow for the administration of IV medications, such as antibiotics, to treat the underlying condition. This same benefit of IV fluids applies to pets who ingest toxic products. Much like a build-up of waste by-products from normal body processes, toxins ingested by the pet can build-up within the tissues and organs. IV fluids are used to help flush the toxins from the body, support the organs and help prevent them from being damaged, and provide access for the administration of medications.

Another complication of illness can be dehydration. This is a very significant problem for patients with a history of vomiting and diarrhea. Since these pets often cannot drink without vomiting the water back up, or all the water they take in quickly leaves the body via diarrhea, they have a very difficult time maintaining adequate hydration. Dehydration causes significant stress to the body and can lead to organ damage, cardiac arrhythmias (abnormal heart beat), low blood pressure and death. The ability to administer fluids to correct dehydration in ways other than by mouth is often the key to survival for these pets. Administration of IV fluids in these patients can significantly improve prognosis and survival.

The overall benefit of IV fluid therapy for any patient is support of body functions. This can involve maintenance of blood pressure, assistance with toxin filtration, ensuring proper hydration or providing access for the administration of life-saving medications. IV fluids are a powerful tool that can make surgical and medical treatment less stressful and more successful for your pet. Please discuss with your Veterinarian how the use of IV fluid therapy would be beneficial for your pet's medical needs.



An IV catheter is placed in the vein to allow administration of fluids