

Anesthesia Protocol for Greyhounds

For years, just the mention of the word “anesthesia” would cause fear amongst greyhound owners, and for good reason: Greyhounds and anesthesia are a potentially lethal mix. Standard anesthesia procedures simply do not work for greyhounds, and can result in death. However, greyhound experienced veterinarians have developed certain protocols that greatly reduce the risk of anything happening to your beloved pet if or when the necessity of a surgical procedure arises. We highly recommend retaining a copy of this document, giving one to your vet, and keeping one in a safe storage compartment in your automobile in case an emergency were to arise while traveling.

Administering Anesthesia to Greyhounds

- Never use thiobarbituates including Biotal, Surital, or Pentothal.
- Acepromazine is a safe and reliable pre-anesthetic tranquilizer for the greyhound.
- Diazepam and Ketamine combination or Telazole are safe IV anesthetic drugs to use for intubation.
- Isoflurane is the gas anesthetic of choice. It is exceptionally safe and recovery is rapid.
- Greyhounds should have IV fluids administered during all major procedures lasting longer than 45 minutes. The rate of infusion is 10 ml/kg/hour.
- Greyhounds are prone to hypothermia while under anesthesia and should be kept on a heated water pad or another source of safe heat during surgery.
- There is no age limit for surgically spaying or neutering greyhounds, but proper pre-surgical workups should be done and all workups should include a platelet evaluation. This will further insure the safety of an anesthetic procedure.
**Any greyhound 7-10 years of age should have a mini chemistry panel.
**Any greyhound 10+ years of age should have a full chemistry panel.

Procedure

- Give combination dose of 0.1cc of Acepromazine subcutaneously along with Atropine Sulfate or preferably Glycopyrrolate 1 hour prior to administering the intravenous anesthesia.
- A reliable IV induction anesthetic combination consists of equal amounts of Diazepam and Ketamine drawn up in the same syringe. The calculated dose of this combination is approximately 1cc of the mixture per 20 pounds of body weight.
- Half of the calculated dose can be given as a bolus, then administer just enough as needed to intubate. Telazole is a safe drug to use in place of Diazepam and Ketamine. It is dosed at 1cc per 100 pounds of body weight. Propofol is another safe alternative for any greyhound over 7 years of age and/or has kidney problems and any greyhound 10+ years of age. Use Valium rather than Acepromazine.
- Isoflurane is then used at about 1.5 to 2 percent to maintain anesthesia.
- Sevoflurane can also be used.