



An Open Letter to All Clients from the Desk of Dr. Chris Dristas Surgery For Your Pets

Surgery is serious. Plain and simple. Thankfully, most of our animals will undergo only one major surgery in their lifetime. Most likely, this will be their appropriate surgical Spay or Neuter. I am NOT writing in an effort to "sell" you the idea of having these procedures done. Plenty of people are advocating the benefits of spaying and neutering and I am certainly one of them. I am writing to simply explain the reason why **I want the responsibility** of being the surgeon that brings your pet through this vitally important day in their lives.

Recently, privately funded organizations have begun performing these surgeries in "assembly line" fashion here in central Indiana. Their goal is a simple one -- operate on as many animals as possible - as fast as possible - and wage war on pet over-population. I truly understand this battle as I myself have participated in any and all local overpopulation programs for many years. But for animals in **my care** -- careful, unhurried individualized surgery has been and will always be the only option. I continue to refuse to lessen my commitment to any entrusted patient for any reason. This now fashionable but clearly dismissive attitude of being "faster and cheaper" is of great concern to any true doctor. Your family member is neither a number nor a revenue source and therefore should never be treated as such.

When you choose surgery with my hospital your pet will typically be one of two to four animals to be anesthetized and have an operation on that day. This scheduling must be followed to be certain that the procedures are not rushed and to allow for **careful individual monitoring** before, during, and especially after surgery. Performing 80 to 100 or more surgeries in a day is common for the mass sterilization clinics with one hurried doctor and a few staff members to assist. We cannot provide the attentive, individualized patient care we require in such an environment. Prior to surgery we carefully evaluate each patient by full physical examination. We will not proceed with surgery if a condition is revealed that may threaten the animal under anesthesia. We then induce and maintain anesthesia with modern, safe drugs that are **individually chosen for your pets particular needs**. (*Anesthesia is as serious a pursuit as one can imagine isn't it? Anesthesia should not be "cook-booked" to hundreds of varied patients in a single day?!*)

The surgeries are then performed by myself using only the best techniques in a safe, sterile environment. Your pet will then be recovered in a quiet, clean area away from other animals to reduce stress and fear as they emerge from the anesthetic. During all of this, they are individually monitored by myself and my staff. All associated fright and pain that occurs is managed with appropriate medication both here and at home. They will return home that afternoon having undergone as little trauma and stress as possible. For this high level of care and commitment, **our fees will always be reasonable**. This is our pledge.

When your pet became a patient at Churchman Animal Hospital he or she became immediately "one of our own." Our duty to you has been and will always be to care for your animals as if we owned them ourselves. Myself and my staff will not accept a "race to the finish", dangerous approach to their health and welfare. Our daily commitment to them is a special, individual one. We provide for them the best of care simply because failing them means failing "one of our own." When you choose surgery for your pets, I urge you to value the level of commitment we will provide them. Your investment in our approach will truly provide the best for your pet at this critical time in their lives. If we can answer any further questions for you please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you for your trust.

Dr. Chris

Churchman Animal Hospital
2228 Churchman Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46203

T 317.788.9938
F 317.786.5590
E churchmanah@aol.com

Hours M W F 7 am – 7 pm
T T 7 am – 6 pm
Sat 8:30 am – 1:30 pm