

Elective Orthopedic Procedure

Preparation

Purpose

This preparation is recommended to help facilitate the anesthetic process for surgical patients, reduce the risk of postoperative infection, and minimize factors that could delay surgery.

1 Week Prior to Procedure

- Begin **topical Dakin's Solution (Dilute Bleach)** treatments once daily — see instructions below.
- If you notice any **skin rash, irritation, redness, or other evidence of infection**, please notify your veterinarian.
- If a skin infection is present, surgery may be rescheduled to reduce the risk of complications.

Evening Prior to Procedure

- For dogs older than **10 months of age**, withhold all food after the evening meal (or 8:00 p.m.).
- **Water is permitted** until the time of admission.

Day of Procedure

- If needed, administer **trazodone (3–5 mg/kg)** and **gabapentin (10 mg/kg)** prior to travel.
- The patient should arrive **fasted**, other than required sedatives.
- Bring **long-term prescription medications** (in their original containers) and **prescription food** for the day of surgery.

Important Notes

For the safety of your pet, surgery may be **rescheduled** if there are concerns regarding:

- Inability to follow fasting recommendations
- Skin or other infection
- Change in medical condition that could influence anesthesia or surgical safety

If you have concerns about your pet that could affect surgical planning or anesthesia, please notify your veterinarian as soon as possible.

Topical Dakin's Solution (Dilute Bleach) Instructions

1. Perform topical treatments **once daily for 1 week prior to surgery** to reduce the risk of postoperative infection.

Dakin's Solution helps control common skin bacteria, including many resistant *Staphylococcus* species, and is frequently used prior to elective orthopedic procedures.

2. Purchase **regular household bleach**, avoiding scented or splashless varieties.
3. **Mix the solution before each use** (do not store). Prepare as follows based on bleach concentration:

- a. **6% Sodium Hypochlorite:** Mix **4 oz (½ cup)** of regular bleach with **1 gallon of water**

- b. **7.5% Sodium Hypochlorite:** Mix **3 oz (6 tbsp)** of regular bleach with **1 gallon of water**

- c. **8.25% Sodium Hypochlorite:** Mix **3 oz (6 tbsp)** of regular bleach with **1 gallon of water**

4. Apply the solution with a **sponge** to the surgical leg, groin, and hip, ensuring the skin is saturated.

You may blot with a towel if the solution drips.

The solution should **not cause burning or irritation** if mixed correctly.

If pain or irritation occurs, rinse thoroughly with water and discontinue treatments.

5. **Allow to air dry.** Do **not rinse** or **heat dry** after application.

Thank you for choosing WTVS. We look forward to working with your pet.