Dear Colleagues,

Please see below for a check-list of items that we consider either required or highly recommended for peri-operative care. If the items that are highly recommended are declined by the owner, please document that it was recommended and declined.

Pre-Operative:

- Required:
  - Updated history and physical examination obtained on the day of surgery
  - Radiographs for all orthopedic cases

- Highly recommended:
  - Sampling (FNA) of masses
  - Chest radiographs for oncologic surgery
  - Abdominal ultrasound for specific procedures (e.g. organ assessment for procedures such as splenectomy and/or metastasis screen for highly malignant conditions such as feline mammary tumors)

Operative:

- Required:
  - Intravenous catheter placement
  - Opioid pain medication
    - Butorphanol alone is not sufficient for surgical analgesia
    - For most procedures, we strongly recommend a full mu opioid (e.g. hydromorphone, morphine, or methadone)
  - Perioperative antibiotics
    - Cefazolin 22mg/kg IV given within 30 minutes of surgery start time, and repeated every 90 minutes if applicable
  - Emergency drug dosages calculated and available for use in the OR in the event of cardiac arrest

Appropriate premedication, especially analgesia, is critical for patient comfort, anesthetic stability, and smooth recoveries. We have found that patients are significantly more comfortable when **full mu opioid agonists** are used as part of the premedication protocol. We've included sample premedication protocols below if that would be helpful for your practice.

We appreciate the ability to work with all of you to provide high quality care for our patients within the comfort of their general practice. If there are any questions or concerns, please let us know.

Thank you,
Twin Cities Veterinary Surgery

Sample Premedication Protocols

Canine: Young Healthy
- Dexmedetomidine 5-10mcg/kg IM
- Hydromorphone 0.05-0.1mg/kg IM

Canine: Geriatric Healthy
- Dexmedetomidine 2.5-5mcg/kg IM
- Hydromorphone 0.05mg/kg IM
- Midazolam 0.1mg/kg IM

Canine: Cardiac/Renal
- Hydromorphone 0.05-0.1mg/kg IM
- Midazolam 0.2mg/kg IM

Feline: Young Healthy
- Dexmedetomidine 10mcg/kg IM
- Ketamine 2.2mg/kg IM
- Butorphanol 0.22mg/kg IM
- Buprenorphine 0.02mg/kg IM
- Can consider hydromorphone 0.05-0.1mg/kg instead of butorphanol/buprenorphine combination, but it can cause significant hyperthermia

Feline: Geriatric/Cardiac/Renal
- Butorphanol 0.22mg/kg IM
- Buprenorphine 0.02mg/kg IM
- Midazolam 0.2mg/kg IM
- Can consider hydromorphone 0.05-0.1mg/kg instead of butorphanol/buprenorphine combination, but it can cause significant hyperthermia

**Note about butorphanol/buprenorphine combination:
These medications can be used together for synergistic effects. The rapid onset of butorphanol provides sedative benefits, which often decreases as the analgesic effects of buprenorphine reach their peak.