



The Lowdown on Local Anesthesia

What Every Pet Parent Should Know



What is Local Anesthesia?

Local or locoregional anesthesia is a way to block pain in a specific area of your pet's body. Instead of affecting the whole body like general anesthesia, it numbs the nerves in one region—such as a limb, the mouth, or the abdomen. It is commonly combined with sedation or general anesthesia to keep pets comfortable before, during, and after a procedure.

How it Works

Local anesthetic medications (such as lidocaine or bupivacaine) temporarily “turn off” nerve signals that carry pain. Depending on the technique, we may:

- Inject around a specific nerve (nerve block).
- Instill medication directly into a surgical site (local infiltration).
- Place medication near the spinal cord to numb the back end of the body (epidural).
- Use ultrasound or nerve stimulation to precisely locate nerves for safer, more effective blocks.

Is it Safe?

Yes. Local anesthetics are widely used in both human and veterinary medicine. Side effects are uncommon, especially because veterinarians carefully calculate doses and use precise techniques (often ultrasound-guided). Possible but rare side effects may include:

- Temporary weakness or numbness in the blocked limb or area
- Mild swelling or bruising at the injection site
- Very rarely, allergic reactions or systemic toxicity (your veterinary team takes specific steps to prevent this)

Our Goal: Comfort, Safety, and a Better Surgical Experience

Locoregional anesthesia allows us to provide more effective pain management with fewer side effects—helping your pet wake up more comfortably and recover more smoothly.

If you have questions about how local anesthesia will be used for your pet's upcoming procedure, please let us know. We're happy to walk you through every step.





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Anesthesiology at CVRC

Advanced Care, Greater Peace of Mind



We're proud to announce the launch of our dedicated **Veterinary Anesthesiology Service**, designed to provide the highest level of safety, comfort, and precision for every patient, from routine to complex surgical procedures.

CVRC is one of a select group of hospitals with a board certified anesthesiologist on staff, which means you can expect that your pet is in the best hands.

How This Benefits You and Your Pet

With our new anesthesiology service, you can expect:

- Customized anesthesia plans tailored to your pet's breed, health history, and procedure.
- Advanced monitoring equipment for real-time tracking of vital signs and rapid response to any changes.
- Enhanced pain management techniques for smoother, more comfortable recoveries.
- Collaborative care between our anesthesiologist and other specialists on staff at CVRC.

Your pet receives the most comprehensive, science-driven, and compassionate anesthetic care available.

Meet Dr. Emmett Swanton, DVM, DACVAA

Board-Certified Veterinary Anesthesiologist

We're thrilled to welcome Dr. Emmett Swanton to our team!

Dr. Swanton is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia (DACVAA), a distinction held by only a select number of veterinarians worldwide.

With years of experience in both academic and specialty hospital settings, Dr. Swanton brings:

- Expertise in safe anesthesia for pets of all ages and health conditions
- Deep knowledge of pain management and sedation techniques
- A calm, compassionate approach that puts pets and owners at ease

Dr. Swanton's goal is simple:

To ensure every procedure is as safe, stress-free, and comfortable as possible, for both pets and the people who love them.



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