General anesthesia

General anesthesia for your animal: not so different from general anesthesia for humans!

The different steps to provide general anesthesia to your animal are similar in many aspects to those of general anesthesia that you could undergo:

- **Premedication**, whose main objective is to calm down your companion (sedation), to decrease his/her anxiety (anxiolyis) and to start the analgesic protocol (analgesia), if necessary;

- **Induction**, which makes your animal unconscious and allows tracheal intubation;

- **Maintenance**, which maintains the state of general anesthesia, including unconsciousness, while supporting the vital functions (particularly cardiovascular and respiratory) and providing analgesia;
**Recovery**, an important period which should not be overlooked, where the patient is warmed up (hypothermia being a frequent consequence of general anesthesia, in spite of the devices to limit heat loss) and where the return to consciousness is made smoothly by means of sedative and analgesic drugs, if necessary.

---

**Anesthesia monitoring:**

not less important for you animal than for a human being!

The vital functions of your animal are monitored while he/she is under general anesthesia. The monitoring equipment is similar to what is used in human hospitals:

- Electrocardiograph, to evaluate the **electrical activity of the heart** and to detect the presence of cardiac **dysrhythmias**;
- Monitors of **arterial blood pressure**;
- Pulse oximeter, mainly (but not uniquely) to evaluate **arterial blood oxygenation**;
- Capnometer, mainly (but not uniquely) to evaluate the efficiency of **pulmonary ventilation**.
- Thermometry, to monitor **body temperature** (mainly to control **hypothermia** but also, less frequently, hyperthermia).