

犬や猫の診断や手術を行なう時に麻酔をかけなければならぬことがあります。麻酔で動物の意識を失わせ、痛みを取り、動かない状態にさせることは、十分な診断や治療を行なうために大変重要な処置です。獣医師は必要に応じ麻酔を施すわけですが、より安全な麻酔状態を得るために、動物の健康状態の評価が欠かせません。簡単な傷の手当てや避妊手術であっても同様です。体重 年齢 サイズ 栄養状態 排尿排便 活発さのレベル 現在の問題点 過去の病歴 使用中の薬 発情 妊娠 脱水の程度 性格などを把握し、血液検査やレントゲン検査の結果と組合せて麻酔プランをたてていきます。近年、犬や猫の肥満は一般的な傾向ですが、麻酔管理のうえでは大きな障害になることがあります。

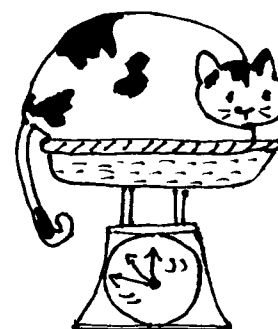
肥満の動物は日頃から心臓血管系、呼吸器系にかなり無理をして生活しています。心臓は体のすみずみへ血液を送るために肥大していることが多く、常に心臓に負担のかかる高血圧の状態が続いていることも少なくありません。また呼吸は胸のまわりの脂肪にじゃまされて、肺が十分に膨らみにくく、慢性的な低酸素状態でもあります。少し動くとハアハア息苦しくなったり、舌の変色するのは、心肺機能が落ちているためです。麻酔薬は基本的に心臓の収縮力を低下させ、呼吸を抑制しますから、普段は問題にならない程度の麻酔による血圧

の変化や呼吸抑制が、肥満の動物にとっては重大な問題となるのです。

そのほか、麻酔薬の中には体脂肪に分布しやすいものがあり、麻酔が覚めにくくなることがあります。麻酔薬が長時間体内にとどまっていると、肝臓や腎臓にも影響がでる場合もあり注意が必要です。

日頃は麻酔をかけることなどあまり考えませんが、いざというときに少しでも安全に治療が受けられるように太りすぎに注意をしてください。

その他にも肥満は、膝をはじめとする関節の痛みや椎間板ヘルニアなどの原因にもなります。体重を減らすことで、これらの疾病の予防にもなります。



Anesthesia and Obesity

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Anesthesia is sometimes necessary when performing diagnoses or surgery on dogs and cats. Administering an anesthetic to make an animal unconscious, or insensitive to pain, or immobile, is an extremely important measure in terms of carrying out a full diagnosis or treatment. The veterinarian determines the precise amount of anesthetic to be administered, and to do so must have complete information regarding the animal's health condition. This is true for treating a simple wound or for a more complicated procedure, such as spaying. The vet needs to know the animal's weight, age, size, nutritional condition, frequency and amount of urination and defecation, level of activity, current health problems, medical history, medication being taken, whether it's in oestrus, pregnant or dehydrated, and about its personality. This information, taken together with the results of blood tests and X-rays, is used to draw up an anesthesia plan.

Obesity in pets is increasingly prevalent these days, and this can be a major problem when it comes to anesthesia.

Overweight animals have a great deal of stress put on their cardiovascular and pulmonary systems on a daily basis. The heart often becomes enlarged in order to send blood out to every part of the body, and many obese animals suffer from high blood pressure, which also puts stress on the heart. Respiration is often hindered by fat around the lungs, which prevents them from filling up with air, resulting in chronically

low levels of oxygen in the blood. If your pet pants heavily and seems to have trouble breathing from just taking a few steps, or if the colour of their tongue turns pale (greyish, whitish or purple) this means their heart and lungs are not functioning properly.

An anesthetic basically lowers the heart's contractile force and suppresses respiration. The change in blood pressure and constrained breathing caused by an anesthetic usually pose no problem for healthy animals, but can be life-threatening in overweight ones. Also, because some anesthetics are more easily distributed in body fat, obese animals may take a long time to come out of the anesthesia. This is another cause of concern, because if an anesthetic stays in the body a long time, it can affect the liver and kidneys.

Although anesthesia is not something your pet will have to undergo often, there is always the possibility it may be required at some juncture. For this reason, it's a good idea to control your pet's diet and guard against obesity so as to prevent complications arising. Obesity also puts stress on knees and other joints, and can cause ruptured discs (intervertebral hernias). Your pet loves to eat, but remember that it's kinder to prevent it becoming overweight than to give it all the treats it wants.