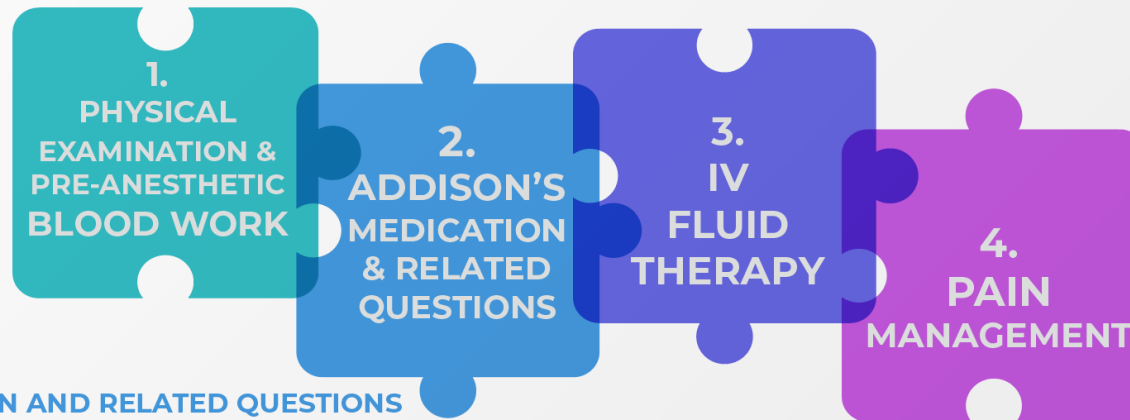


# Planning for Surgery & Medical Procedures for Dogs with Addison's

Please note: Anesthetic procedures should be avoided until the dog with Addison's has been stabilized. Please discuss this with your veterinarian.

## 1. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND PRE-ANESTHETIC BLOOD WORK

**Before scheduling the procedure, ask what precautions will be taken prior to and during surgery.** Physical examination and pre-anesthetic testing help detect hidden illnesses and reduce the risks (and consequences) of anesthesia and surgery. Pets who appear healthy may be masking clinical signs of illness. Pre-anesthetic testing can help detect issues before anesthesia. **Additionally, for Typical Addison's, it is especially important to make sure the electrolytes (sodium and potassium) are well-controlled prior to undergoing anesthetic procedures.**



## 2. ADDISON'S MEDICATION AND RELATED QUESTIONS

**Confirm electrolyte values prior to induction.** Your veterinarian will need to accommodate for your dog's decreased ability to respond to stress. **Prior to the day of surgery, discuss how your vet wants to handle the need for additional glucocorticoids the morning of the procedure.** Some might advise increasing the dose that morning and some might prefer an injection of Dexamethasone instead. If your dog is on Florinef/fludrocortisone (or any other medications), ask how to handle the doses on the day of the procedure. Since dogs must be fasted prior to surgery, ask whether it will be safe to give medications on an empty stomach or if your vet has another recommendation. To avoid the added stress of waiting in the clinic or hospital for surgery, ask if your dog can be first on the list for surgeries.

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This content is provided solely for informational purposes and for discussion with your pet's veterinarian. Follow the instructions provided by your veterinarian.

Sources:

<https://criticalcaresvdm.com/pre-anesthetic-testing-is-it-really-necessary/>

[http://vasg.org/addison's\\_disease.htm](http://vasg.org/addison's_disease.htm)

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[https://www.aaha.org/public\\_documents/professional/guidelines/fluid\\_therapy\\_guidelines.pdf](https://www.aaha.org/public_documents/professional/guidelines/fluid_therapy_guidelines.pdf)

## 3. IV FLUID THERAPY

**IV fluids help keep anesthesia safe.** Your veterinarian will insert an IV catheter prior to anesthesia in order to have immediate access to your pet's bloodstream. Decisions about providing fluid therapy depend on many factors, including the length and type of procedure. Some advantages of providing fluid therapy include correction of normal ongoing fluid losses, support of cardiovascular function, and the ability to maintain whole body fluid volume. **Prior to the day of surgery, please discuss all this with your vet. Ask if your pet will receive IV fluids while under anesthesia.**

## 4. PAIN MANAGEMENT

Alleviating pain is central to improving the outcome for your dog. **Discuss what pain medications will be used during and after the procedure.** Because dogs with Addison's are on corticosteroids, you need to be aware of the potential interaction between corticosteroids and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as Rimadyl, Metacam, and so forth. The American Animal Hospital Association suggests avoiding or using extreme caution with concurrent or recent use of NSAIDs and/or corticosteroids. Using both together may increase the potential for serious gastrointestinal toxicity, including inflammation, bleeding, ulceration, and perforation. Some believe it also leads to increased risk of kidney damage. **Be sure to ask what to expect when your dog comes home. You will likely be nervous about whether your dog's behavior is related to recovering from surgery or if it's related to Addison's. Contact your vet if you have any concerns once your dog comes home.**

<https://CanineAddisons.org/>

See full text in larger size below.

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# PLANNING FOR SURGERY & MEDICAL PROCEDURES FOR DOGS WITH ADDISON'S

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