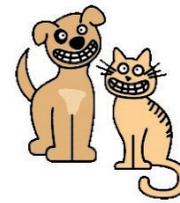


DENTAL PROPHYLAXIS



Your veterinarian has recommended a full dental cleaning for your pet. This was determined by the presence of plaque/calculus on the teeth, gingivitis (periodontal disease), and/or loose or broken teeth. These conditions can be painful and have been shown to contribute to liver, kidney, and heart disease.

This procedure includes a full scaling and polishing of the teeth. In addition, any teeth that are damaged (broken or loose teeth, and especially cats with “cavities” at the gumline) are extracted at the doctor’s discretion. Although we make every effort to save teeth, there are many situations in which removing a damaged tooth prevents further problems for your pet.

Unlike a person’s dental cleaning, general anesthesia is required to clean an animal’s teeth (they won’t sit still for us with their head back and mouth open!). Your doctor will determine the need for pre-anesthetic bloodwork (usually required in animals over 5 years old). General anesthesia is very safe and well tolerated by most healthy animals. While under anesthesia, your pet’s vital signs are monitored closely and an intravenous catheter delivers fluids to maintain blood pressure.

Some animals require a periodontal treatment which helps prevent infection and re-attach the gum to the underlying tooth. In addition, dental x-rays are sometimes recommended to evaluate tooth root disease. Your pet may go home on antibiotics or pain medication depending on what is done.

Preparing for a Dental Cleaning

Please call or speak with a receptionist to schedule your pet’s dental cleaning.

1. Do not feed your pet after 8 pm the night before the dental and withhold water after midnight. This is very important to ensure the safety of anesthesia. If your pet accidentally gets food after this time, please let a receptionist or technician know.
2. Please drop your pet off promptly between 7:30 and 8:30 AM the morning of the dental. If necessary, you are welcome to drop your pet off before 7:30 PM the night before the procedure (except for Monday dentals).
3. Please alert the receptionist or technician to any medications your pet is currently on.
4. You may call after 2:30 PM the day of the procedure for an update on your pet. Most patients go home after 4:30 PM the same day as the dental cleaning.
5. If you would like, a small identification microchip can be implanted under the skin between the shoulder blades of your pet while they are under anesthesia. Your pet may have had this done when he or she was neutered. If your pet is ever lost, most shelters and veterinary clinics will scan found pets for the presence of a chip and contact you quickly through a national registry. This is a very safe and effective means of pet identification. Please let the receptionist know if you are interested.

Community Animal Hospital

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