

POST-DENTAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Your pet may be a little sleepy for a few days after the anesthesia (just as a human would be). If he or she seems extremely lethargic or is not eating, please contact us.
2. Soft food is recommended for a few days after the dental because your pet's mouth may be sensitive. After that, the regular diet may be given.
3. On the day of the dental, please limit your pet's evening meal to half of their normal portion. Do not worry if this meal is not eaten—anesthesia can sometimes make animals nauseous.
4. There may be a small amount of blood in your pet's water bowl for a few days after the dental. This is normal—please call if there is any excessive bleeding.
5. Your veterinarian may be sending your pet home with antibiotics and/or pain medication depending on what procedures were performed. It is very important to finish the entire antibiotic course.



Community Animal Hospital
921 Route 53 • Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950
Telephone (973) 267-4220

LONG TERM DENTAL CARE

There are many products available to keep your pet's teeth healthy, prevent bad breath, and prolong the time between dental cleanings:

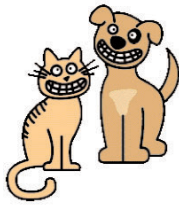
1. **Toothbrushing:** Some pets will allow their teeth to be brushed. We offer poultry and malt flavored toothpaste kits that come with a small finger-brush. This makes it easy to get to the large back teeth that tend to develop a lot of tartar. Use a circular motion when brushing and make sure to get all the teeth. Although it's great to brush your pet's teeth daily, sometimes our busy lives make that unrealistic. Once a week is a good goal.
2. **Hill's Science Diet T/D:** This is a prescription food that can be fed as treats or as your pet's main diet. It has been clinically shown to reduce gingivitis and remove plaque. Most dogs and cats love the taste and crunchiness of T/D.
3. **Maxi/Guard Gel:** This product is easily applied to the teeth (especially good for cats and dogs that will not allow toothbrushing) and helps heal gingivitis and reduces plaque. The product is tasteless and can be applied daily with fingers or a gauze pad.
4. **Nolvadent Oral Cleansing Solution:** This chlorhexidine solution helps to kill bacteria in the mouth and maintain fresh breath. It can be applied with your fingers, a gauze pad, or a toothbrush.
5. **C.E.T. Chews for cats:** These chewy treats mechanically remove plaque and contain chlorhexidine, killing bacteria in your cat's mouth.
6. **Greenies:** The Veterinary Oral Health Council has given it's seal of acceptance to these edible chew treats which control plaque and calculus. Most pet stores carry these tooth brush-shaped treats.



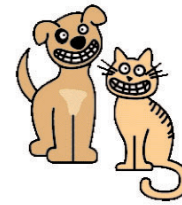
Community Animal Hospital

921 Route 53 • Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950

Telephone (973) 267-4220



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

921 Route 53 • Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950

Telephone (973) 267-4220