

Steps to a Dental Procedure

Pre-anesthetic evaluation - Whenever anesthesia is needed, special considerations are taken to ensure the safety of your pet. We examine your pet to help ensure they are healthy enough to undergo anesthesia. Bloodwork (CBC, Chem, Electrolytes within 60 days and a quantitative cardiac enzyme test) is run to check for any abnormal values as well as establish normal baselines. Though there is some risk associated with any medical procedure, modern anesthesia is usually safe, even for older pets. In most instances, the anesthetic risk is near 0.05%. It has been shown pets with annual anesthetic dental procedures live longer than those without regular dental care.

IV fluids - An intravenous catheter is placed to speed recovery, improve hydration, and have an emergency port for improved safety.

Anesthetic monitoring - During anesthesia, we monitor your pet's vital signs including body temperature, heart rate, and respirations to ensure the safety of your pet while undergoing anesthesia. Special warming blankets are used to help prevent heat loss, improve recovery, and provide comfort.

Oral Exam - Once your pet is under anesthesia, the doctor performs a full oral exam. Any loose, broken, or missing teeth are noted in the chart along with any oral tumors or problems. The gums around the teeth are probed and any pockets are noted.

Dental radiographs - Radiographs (x-rays) of the teeth are needed to see the 2/3 of each tooth below the gumline in order to completely evaluate your pet's oral health. 72-86% of pets of all ages have painful hidden problems on x-ray. 3D imaging is 2 to 4 times more diagnostic for many oral conditions, aiding in treatments and reducing anesthesia.

Scaling & Polishing - A specialized ultrasonic scaler is used to clean at and under the gumline without damage to tissues. The teeth are then polished to smooth any scratches in the enamel.



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Additional Treatments

Pain Medications/Antibiotics – Extractions and advanced therapies require nerve blocks and additional pain control methods. Different drug types are used to work on multiple pain receptors. A pain management plan is tailored to each pet for the best outcome. We will also use antibiotics when needed.

Extractions – We always prefer to save teeth. However, it is better to be without a tooth, than keep a painful tooth. Two shorter anesthetic procedures may be better than one long procedure and allow for gum healing and bacterial reduction between anesthetic procedures. For these reasons, There are times we will diagnose a problem, then return for the extraction in a second procedure. In some cases it will seem as if many teeth need to be removed, but only 8 of the 30 (cats) to 42 (dogs) teeth are important.

Additional Therapies – The application of a clear anti-plaque sealant, Sanos, can be used. This 6 month, teeth brushing replacement is applied during a professional anesthetic dental procedure. Its smooth surface delays tartar formation. Fluoride may be beneficial to help fortify your pet's teeth and reduce sensitivity.

Advanced Therapies – The following therapies are done to preserve function and stop pain when needed:

Bone Grafts/Membranes
Root Canal Therapy
Non-Invasive Fracture Repair
Partial Jaw Resection
Tooth Resorption Treatment

Palate and Cleft Repair
Gum Recontouring
Specialized Flap Surgery
Full Metal Crown
TMJ Treatment

Restorations
Orthodontics
Mass Resection
Cyst Removal
and more...



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