

DENTAL CLEANING AFTERCARE

Congratulations! You have taken a very big step towards the improvement of your companion's oral health!

Even if your dog/cat did not have extractions done today, he or she will probably have a sore mouth for the next 2-3 days. If extractions were performed, the soreness may persist for 4-5 days. You can feed your dog/cat a small meal tonight (about ½ of normal amount) and can offer him/her about half of the usual amount of water, Tomorrow you can feed a normal amount of food and water, but you may want to feed canned food for the next few days .

During the dental cleaning procedure your animal will be under general anesthesia VIA an endotracheal tube. It is common for your pet to have a slight to mild cough after this procedure. Cough can last up to 7 days, if cough continues call for a recheck appointment.

If extractions of teeth were performed, do not be surprised if you notice a small amount of bleeding from your pet's mouth. You may notice a small amount of blood in their water dish, after your pet takes a drink of water. Although a small amount of bleeding may be expected following dental extractions, significant hemorrhage is NOT expected and you should contact us right away if you have any concerns.

Antibiotics: some animals with evidence of severe subgingival infection may require antibiotics for 10 days or so following their teeth cleaning. This decision is made on a case by case basis, and your pet may or may not need to go home on antibiotics.

Now is a good time to start thinking about PREVENTION of periodontal disease. If your pet already has periodontal disease, the teeth cleaning was an important part of slowing the progression of the disease. There are other steps you can take to prevent or delay the progression of periodontal disease. Brushing your pet's teeth can be an important part of maintaining good oral health. Both finger brushes and "regular" toothbrushes are available. It is important to use dog/cat toothpaste as opposed to human toothpaste. Your pet will also probably enjoy the variety of flavored toothpaste available for animals (poultry, malt, and vanilla-mint flavors). Many dogs enjoy having their teeth brushed because the toothpaste is actually a "treat" for them! Cats may or may not view the toothpaste as a "treat". Remember your pet is sore right now, so wait for about a week to start brushing their teeth.