



HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR DENTISTRY/ORAL SURGERY PATIENTS WITH TEETH EXTRACTIONS

Your pet's **teeth** have been **cleaned with an ultrasonic scaler, polished** with dental prophy paste, and had a **fluoride** treatment applied today while under anesthesia. We have also extracted some of your pet's teeth today. Your pet's **ears were cleaned and nails were cut** today at **no charge**. Please read the following recommendations to ensure a smooth recovery:

1. Your pet **may be groggy** due to the anesthesia and pain killers. Please use a leash, carry your pet or use a carrier to protect your pet when leaving the hospital.
2. Your pet's eyes and hair around the eyes **may appear greasy**. This is due to the lubrication that is necessary since pets do not close their eyes under anesthesia. You can use a warm wash cloth to gently wash away any remaining grease.
3. When your pet arrives home, keep him/her quiet for a few hours. **Offer water and feed a small amount of his/her normal food at first to avoid vomiting**. As the night goes on you may gradually offer more food. The next morning you may return to your pet's normal feeding schedule. Feed your pet a **canned or soft diet for ~7-14 days**. If your pet normally eats **hard food** only, **please soak his/her food in water for 15 minutes before feeding**. This process allows your pet's gums to heal.
4. You may observe **decreased activity or appetite for 1-2 days**. However, please call us if your pet exhibits any of the following symptoms: refusal to drink water for longer than 1 day, loss of appetite for more than 2 days or excessive weakness, depression, vomiting or diarrhea. Some patients **may not have a bowel movement for 1-3 days**. This delay typically results from decreased food intake in preparation for the surgery, anesthesia and pain medications that can slow down the GI tract. Your pet **may have a mild cough** for a few days due to a breathing tube placed in the trachea.
5. Your pet may have a **shaved spot** on one or more of his/her legs where an **IV catheter** was inserted. If necessary, you may apply 1% hydrocortisone ointment to this shaved area several times a day to help decrease itching and redness.
6. Do not allow access to chew toys for 2 weeks.
7. Your pet may experience minor bleeding or swelling from the gums. This is normal. Should bleeding or swelling appear excessive, please call us. Your pet may show signs of **excessive licking** inside of their mouth. This is a **normal behavior and will subside** over the next few weeks.

8. Please do not disturb the extraction site(s) as this may lead to bleeding. The extraction site(s) may be sutured closed, if this is the case, the sutures will dissolve in a few weeks.
9. Antibiotics are often prescribed if there is a possibility of infection; please finish all of the prescription as directed to treat and prevent infection. Pain killers/anti-inflammatories may also be prescribed for a few days. You may hide these medicines in pill pockets, cheese, peanut butter, deli meat, etc... If you suspect an adverse reaction (vomiting, diarrhea, dark tarry stools, decreased appetite, abnormal behavior, ect..), please call us as soon as possible.
10. Restrict your pet's activity for the next 7-14 days. Do not allow any strenuous activity (running, jumping, rough playing with other pets or children, etc...). Your pet should be confined indoors if possible and dogs should be leash walked only for a few days in order to restrict their activity and to monitor their bowel movements.
11. Your veterinarian may want to re-examine your pet's teeth in approximately 2 weeks to ensure normal healing has taken place.
Please wait until after this recheck appointment before you start brushing your pet's teeth or offering your pet any teeth cleaning chews or bones.
12. If your pet was sent home with a cone collar please ensure that your pet wears the cone collar whenever not directly supervised (at night or when you are away from home).
13. Brushing your pet's teeth is the best way to keep your pet's teeth clean. It requires some commitment and time, but it will pay off in the reduction of plaque and tartar formation.
14. For instructions on teeth brushing and oral hygiene, please see sheet on "How to Brush Your Pet's Teeth".
15. Other ways to help clean your pet's teeth include special diets that scrape off plaque from the teeth, water additives, oral rinses, dental wipes and rawhide treats impregnated with antimicrobials and enzymes also help reduce plaque and tartar. Ask your veterinarian about these products.
16. Your pet's teeth may need to be professionally cleaned as often as every 6-12 months. Some dogs, especially small breeds, are prone to excessive plaque and tartar buildup in less than 1 month! Please bring your pet to see his/her veterinarian for regular dental check-ups.

Please call (305) 238-5161 if you have any questions or concerns.