



HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR DENTISTRY PATIENTS

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.

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. 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.
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 anesthesia. Pain medications can also 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. **Antibiotics** are often prescribed if there is a possibility of infection; please finish all of the prescription as directed to treat and prevent infection. You may hide these medicines in pill pockets, cheese, peanut butter, deli meat, etc... If you suspect an adverse reaction (vomiting, diarrhea, dark or tarry stools, decrease in appetite, abnormal behavior, ect...), please call us as soon as possible.
7. **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.

8. For instructions on teeth brushing and oral hygiene, please see sheet on "How to Brush Your Pet's Teeth".
9. 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.
10. 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.