

# A Day at the Dentist

You may be wondering what to expect after your pet is admitted for a dental cleaning. Once you and your pet are checked in, the veterinarian overseeing your pet's dental cleaning performs a pre-dental examination. During this 10 minute admit appointment, the veterinarian will answer any questions you have pertaining to the dental procedure.

Prior to anesthesia, a blood sample is taken from your pet to measure liver and kidney functions to rule out any unforeseen complications.

If blood values are within normal range, we prepare your pet for the dental cleaning. Pre-anesthetic, anti-inflammatory/pain medications are administered according to weight and age. An IV catheter is placed for fluid therapy and an endotracheal tube is placed for breathing and administering the inhalation of anesthetic gas and oxygen.

IV fluids are given during the entire procedure to hydrate and to stabilize blood pressure. Your pet's blood pressure and heart rate are monitored closely and the technician carefully documents vital signs. The dental technician begins by rinsing the mouth with an antiseptic solution to control the spread of bacteria. Then the technician removes tartar build up, probes the gum line looking for pockets and loose teeth, and then begins the ultrasonic scaling. If there is concern about a tooth, the technician will take digital x-rays of your pet's mouth.

The veterinarian will review the x-rays to make any decisions regarding treatment or extraction. Finally, your pet's teeth are polished and pet-safe fluoride foam is applied to further protect the teeth.

Your pet will recover in our Intensive Care Unit and will remain closely monitored until fully awake.

A hospital team member or veterinarian will contact you if there are any questions during your pet's dental cleaning and also after your pet is completely recovered and ready to go home.

Prior to taking your pet home, technician or veterinarian will review the dental procedure, explain home care dental instructions and provide dental demonstrations.

After your pet's dental cleaning you will notice the difference in your pet's mouth. Not only does it improve your pet's breath (good for us), but it improves your pet's overall health!

## **What you and your pet can expect during a dental cleaning at Elliott Bay:**

**(See the backside for details)**

- Admit appointment with a veterinarian
- Pre-anesthetic bloodwork
- Pre & post anti-inflammatory, pain medication and antibiotics if necessary
- IV fluids
- Heart rate monitoring
- Blood pressure monitoring
- Tartar removal
- Gum evaluation (checking for pockets or loose teeth)
- Ultrasonic scaling
- Polishing of teeth
- Oravet application if requested
- Digital x-ray if needed
- Routine to complex extractions if needed
- Recovery in Intensive Care Unit
- Complimentary nail trim
- Veterinarian or technician discharge instruction
- Home dental care instructions and samples



**For more information, please contact us or visit our website! [www.elliottbayah.com](http://www.elliottbayah.com)**

We offer complimentary dental evaluations from one of our technicians.

Please schedule your pet's appointment today!

# Explanation of Dental Services



## **Pre-op Pain Management/Evaluation:**

Your veterinarian will examine your pet prior to anesthesia being administered and determine which anesthetic protocol is most appropriate. If extractions are anticipated nerve block administration is planned. Pre-operative pain medications are administered.

## **IV Catheter and Fluids:**

An IV catheter is placed for the administration of both anesthetic induction medications and for fluid administration during the procedure. The fluid administration maintains your pet's hydration and blood pressure, and the catheter also gives us immediate venous access should the need for any additional medications or therapy arise during the procedure.

## **Pre-operative Blood Work:**

The blood panel recommended by your veterinarian helps them assess your pet's organ function, electrolytes, blood sugar and other parameters and therefore determine if there are any particular risks or concerns prior to anesthesia. If your pet hasn't had a blood panel previously, this also gives us a set of baseline values for your pet.

## **Isoflourane Anesthesia:**

This is the maintenance of your pet on a gas anesthetic during the procedure. This includes the induction of the anesthetic, intubation and one hour of anesthetic time. After the first hour there is an additional charge for each additional thirty minutes of anesthesia.

## **Anesthetic Monitoring:**

Your pet's blood pressure, oxygen saturation levels, heart rate, respiratory rate, temperature, fluid administration and other vital signs are monitored throughout the procedure, and body temperature is maintained by circulating warm air beds and blankets.

## **Ultrasonic Scaling and Polishing:**

After a complete oral examination and removal of gross tartar, your pet's teeth will be hand scaled to remove all tartar both above and below the gum line. The polishing removes any defects in the surface of the tooth to retard future tartar formation.

## **Fluoride Treatment:**

Fluoride foam is applied at the end of the procedure.

## **Dental X-Rays:**

Your pet will have x-rays of any teeth that show criteria for disease of the tooth or periodontal ligaments. Our digital x-ray unit allows us to provide fast, detailed assessment of the health of your pet's teeth and makes it easy for us to transmit images for review by a board-certified veterinary dentist if necessary.

## **Post-Operative Pain Management:**

If your pet has extractions or other oral surgery pain medications will be administered prior to recovery to ensure your pet's comfort during the post-operative period. You will also be provided with anti-inflammatory pain medications to administer at home for a few days after the procedure.

## **Antibiotic Injection:**

If we know in advance that there will be extractions or if there is significant gingival infection and inflammation you will have been provided with antibiotics to give orally starting a few days before the procedure. In the event that unexpected extraction(s) or other invasive procedures are found to be necessary, an antibiotic injection will be given to protect the heart and other organs from the dissemination of bacteria from the oral cavity.

## **Doxyrobe Gel:**

When there is mild to moderate detachment of the gum from a tooth but no defects in the tooth or periodontal ligament, this antibiotic gel will be applied below the gum line to help resolve the infection and thus allow the gum to reattach to the tooth. We can prevent the need for extractions by addressing these issues as soon as they are discovered.

## **Oravet:**

Oravet is a waxy substance which adheres to the tooth surface and produces a barrier to tartar formation. A coating is applied at the end of the dental procedure and then you will learn to apply further coats on regular intervals at home. Your veterinarian and technician will discuss with you whether or not you feel you will be able to provide the home care follow up with this product.