

DENTAL POST-OP/DISCHARGE INFORMATION

Your pet has just undergone a dental procedure with anesthesia. It is normal for them to experience some minor swelling, discomfort, and additional symptoms in the next few days. Typically, these issues are not cause for concern and will clear up on their own. Please read this document carefully and in its entirety for important information regarding your pet's dental and what to expect after you return home.

Some facial swelling and blood or blood-tinged saliva are normal for 3 to 5 days following a dental. Prevent your pet from pawing or rubbing at their face. Pet with sutures, particularly cats, may make odd motions with their tongues, but this is nothing to worry about.

Anesthetic: Your pet received anesthetic for their procedure, which can cause sleepiness and/or nausea for up to 24-36 hours. Let us know if your pet shows signs of lethargy or lack of appetite for more than a couple of days. Normal coughing will occur since your pet had a trach tube placed for anesthetic.

Medications: Please follow medication instructions exactly as prescribed, and finish the entire course. Even if your pet does not seem to "need" their medication, it is important to administer it as instructed.

- Before taking your pet home after surgery, make sure you understand how to give them their medicine and what tools are required for dispensing them. Always use the measuring equipment provided, not your own measuring spoons or syringes.
- If you miss a dose, **do not double up on the next dose**. Resume the appropriate dosage schedule with the next treatment. Placing your pet's medication in a plastic pillbox imprinted with the days of the week can help you avoid missing or doubling a dose. This is especially helpful if more than one person in your household is responsible for caring for your pet.
- **Do not give your pet any medications or supplements** without discussing it with your veterinarian. Human medications like aspirin, ibuprofen (Advil/Motrin), and acetaminophen (Tylenol) can be toxic to animals and may be fatal if given to cats.
- Many **liquid medications must be kept refrigerated**. Gently roll in your hand or shake them to remix prior to giving to your pet. If a medication that requires refrigeration is left unrefrigerated, please contact our office to find out whether it is safe to give to your pet or needs to be replaced.
- **Do not crush or cut tablets** unless instructed to do so. Crushed tablets can taste bitter and sometimes make it difficult to determine how much the patient has ingested.

Food and Water: Your pet should always have access to fresh water. They should be back to eating within 24 to 72 hours. Offer soft food for 14 days. Use your pet's regular canned food or dry food that has been soaked in warm water for 15 minutes unless the veterinarian prescribes something different.

Dental Cleaning Completed... Now What?

After your pet receives a dental and has clean teeth and fresh breath, you may wonder what to do next. Luckily, there are a lot of products out there that can help you maintain your pet's oral health in between dentals. By keeping your pet's teeth clean and preventing plaque buildup, you can help them enjoy a clean, pain-free mouth in between appointments. There is a wide range of products to choose from, so there is something that's right for virtually every pet.

Mechanical Options

- **Toothbrushes and Paste:** Toothbrushes and pastes made just for pets are a great way to keep their teeth clean. Talk to your vet to learn how to brush your pet's teeth at home.
- **Chew Toys:** Most pets love chewing, and chew toys help keep their teeth clean. Look for toys that are not too hard. Generally, if your fingernail leaves an impression on the toy, it's safe for your pet to chew. Dental Kongs are a great option!

Dental Diets and Treats

- **Hills t/d diet** is specially formulated to help remove plaque buildup on your pet's teeth. Even when offered as a treat, it will improve your pet's oral hygiene.
- **Greenies**, C.E.T. Chews, and other dental treats also work to clean your pet's teeth while they chew.

Enzyme/Antibacterial Agents

- **C.E.T.'s** line of products includes a number of products, including rinses and water additives, formulated to eliminate plaque-forming bacteria.