



Professional Dental Cleaning

Your pet needs a dental cleaning and you are worried. Have no fear! Our staff will take the best care of your pet to make sure he or she wakes in loving hands with sparkling clean teeth! Here's how we do it:

Anesthesia

Your pet receives anesthesia so we can work in their mouth. They are not likely to cooperate as well as a human would in the dentist's chair. We have to make sure they are sleeping before we can begin cleaning and x-raying their teeth.

Before anesthesia, your pet will have blood work performed to ensure anesthesia is safe. Your pet will also get an IV (intravenous – in the vein) catheter. IV fluids protect the kidneys and maintain blood pressure.



We use several devices to monitor your pet's vital signs, such as blood pressure, pulse, and respiratory rate, while under anesthesia. Your pet will be under close observation at all times, and all pets are on a warming blanket to prevent a low temperature that can cause complications.

Examination and Cleaning

Once under anesthesia, the veterinary technician takes a thorough look at your pet's mouth. She will check for any abnormalities such as lumps or extra teeth, and note the level of periodontal disease. She will alert the doctor to anything that needs attention immediately.

The technician will then use an ultrasonic scalar (the same kind your human dental hygienist uses) and clean all tartar build-up from around every tooth. She

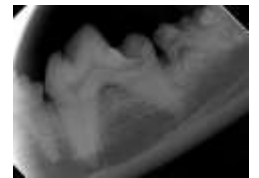


will gently run the tool under the gum line to make sure there is no build-up hiding where she can't see it.

After removing the tartar from your pet's teeth, the technician uses a probe to look for tooth defects, pockets around the tooth, and other tooth abnormalities. We record these findings on your pet's dental chart, along with the level of gingivitis around each tooth.

X-rays and Doctor's Exam

Once the charting step is complete, the technician will take x-rays of your pet's entire mouth. This will help to make sure there isn't anything hiding below the gum line that could be detrimental to your pet's health. Often teeth look normal on the surface but are diseased below the gum line requiring extraction.



The doctor will review these x-rays while the technician polishes the patient's teeth using the same kind of polisher as your dentist.

The veterinarian will then examine the mouth and remove diseased teeth. When finished, she will check the mouth again to make sure nothing was missed.

Wake Up Time

Then we will gently wake your pet. Your pet will be in a warm, secure area while waking up. We monitor him or her closely for any signs of pain or discomfort. Once fully awake, they go home the same day. If you have any questions or concerns, let us know. We would be happy to answer any questions!