



Veterinary Hospital

DENTAL DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

Your pet has just had his teeth cleaned to remove tartar and bacteria from the teeth and under the gums. Where necessary, any loose or diseased teeth may have been extracted. After the cleaning, the teeth were thoroughly polished to remove plaque and pitting from the surface of the teeth. As a hygienist regularly cleans your own teeth, your pet may need regular cleanings to ensure the continued health of his teeth and gums.

In order to do a thorough and safe cleaning, your pet was under general anesthesia. You may find shaved areas on your pet where an IV catheter was placed. These allowed us to constantly monitor heart rate, respiratory rate, oxygen saturation and blood pressure. These safeguards allow us to adjust the anesthesia properly for each individual pet. Some pets may experience slight throat irritation from the endotracheal tube used to administer the anesthesia and oxygen. Your pet may cough at home occasionally for one to three days. If coughing is excessive or prolonged, please call us for further instructions.

When your pet goes home, he may still be groggy and could easily fall from a sofa or down stairs. Care at home mainly entails restriction of activity to prevent any injuries. If your pet is to be left alone, he must be confined to a cage or other small area and kept away from other pets. This strict confinement must be continued until your pet behaves normally, which may take until late evening or the next morning. You may feed your pet a small meal when you take him home (we recommend no more than one third of the normal amount of food given). Keep water readily available. Do not be alarmed if your pet does not feel like eating, but his appetite should return by morning.

If extractions were done, we advise feeding their regular dry food softened with water for a few days. If periodontal disease was present and your pet is on antibiotics, please continue the medication for the full time prescribed.

Now that your pet's teeth are clean you can help them stay that way. Some pets will allow you to brush their teeth while others will not. There are a variety of pet toothbrushes available. Pet toothpastes are available in a variety of flavors; we do not recommend human toothpaste. We recommend that you clean your pet's teeth as often as possible. Tartar control foods and treats are also helpful.

Even with daily care, tartar may still form which would necessitate periodic professional cleaning. Some of the signs of unhealthy teeth and gums are: bad breath, difficulty eating and chewing, or not wanting to eat at all, and red, inflamed gums. If any of these signs occur please let us know. Dental disease allows bacteria to spread from the mouth through the blood stream to all the organs in the body. The heart, kidneys, or the liver can be seriously affected by this bacterial spread, and disease in any of these organs can be fatal to your pet. Our goal is to help your pet maintain good health, which includes good oral health for its entire life.

If you have questions or concerns during your pet's recovery, please do not hesitate to call our office at 304-270-1063. If you need assistance after our business hours, please call