

POST DENTAL PROCEDURE INSTRUCTIONS:

Your pet has just had their teeth cleaned to remove tartar and bacteria from the teeth and under the gums. As well as a full oral health exam has been done and full mouth dental radiographs taken and evaluated. Where necessary, any loose or diseased teeth have been extracted. After the cleaning, the teeth were thoroughly polished to remove plaque and pitting from the surface of the teeth. Just as a hygienist regularly cleans your own teeth, your pet may need regular cleanings to ensure the continued health of his teeth and gums.

All of our dental patients have pre-anaesthetic blood work evaluated before the surgical procedure. In order to do a thorough and safe cleaning, your pet was under general anaesthesia. You may find shaved areas on your pet where an IV catheter was placed. A technician constantly monitored heart rate, respiratory rate, oxygen saturation and blood pressure. These safeguards allow us to adjust the anaesthesia properly for each individual pet. Some pets may experience slight throat irritation from the endotracheal tube used to administer the anaesthesia 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, they may still be groggy and could easily fall from a sofa or down stairs. Care at home 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 them 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. Please call to discuss if your pet is not eating in the morning.

If extractions were performed, we advise feeding canned food or their regular dry food softened with water for a few weeks or until the post operative surgical exam. Please continue with all the medications as prescribed. If you feel your pet is painful please call us to discuss.

If your pet has had teeth extracted, there are dissolving sutures in the mouth. Expect some blood tinged saliva and inflammation. The amount of bleeding seen should diminish over the next 24 hrs. Please notify us if you see any unusual bleeding or swelling.

Please book a complimentary post-operative dental exam in 7 days' time.

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; DO NOT use human toothpaste. We recommend that you clean your pet's teeth everyday. Tartar control foods and treats are also helpful. Healthy Mouth water additive is also recommended and available. Please allow 10-14 days of healing time before trying to brush your pet's teeth or trying a new dental diet.

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 any questions or concerns during your pet's recovery, please do not hesitate to call our office at (613) 354-6615 or call Kingston Regional Pet Hospital (613) 634-5370 or Prince Edward and Hasting Pet Hospital (613) 968-2959 after hours.

Thank you