YOUR PET NEEDS A DENTAL, NOW WHAT?

Today, your veterinarian completed a full physical examination. During this exam, we were able to see tartar and calculus build-up, gum irritation, and gum loss in more severe cases. Dental health care is warranted for your pet, and we have included a dental procedure estimate. This estimate is just that, an estimate. Dental estimates are the most variable type of estimate due to the unpredictability of what lies under the gumline.

Annual professional dental procedures are an integral part of overall health maintenance. Diligent dental health care decreases bacteria and their related toxins that travel through the bloodstream. These toxins can lead to increased risk of diseases that affect the heart, liver and kidneys. Completing a dental cleaning does not decrease the need for at home care or regular oral examinations.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM MY PET'S DENTAL PROCEDURE?

Patient safety and comfort is our #1 priority. A complete pre-anesthetic work-up is performed before any anesthesia is administered. Anesthetic procedures are never without risk; however, we take multiple precautionary measures to ensure your pet remains comfortable and properly maintained.

BEFORE

PRE-ANESTHETIC BLOODWORK

A complete blood count (CBC) and chemistry allow us to evaluate your pet's overall health, organ function, and electrolytes. This ensures possible underlying conditions may be addressed before proceeding.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Your veterinarian performs a full physical examination the morning of your procedure to ensure that your pet is a proper candidate for anesthesia. This exam includes listening to heart and lung sounds, palpating their abdomen, and inspecting their eyes, ears, and oral cavity.

ADDITIONAL IMAGING

Chest radiographs (x-rays) allow us to visualize the thoracic space. This enables us to determine heart size and to see if there are any abnormalities with the heart, lungs, or trachea.

DURING

Our safety measures expand throughout the procedure's entirety.

Intravenous Catheter – An intravenous (IV) catheter, usually placed in your pet's front limb, allows us instant access to a vein in the case of an emergency. This IV catheter also allows for perioperative administration of fluids to aid in hydration and blood pressure adjustment. Instant access ensures less injection sites for IV administered medications. Your pet will go home with a shaved patch of fur from the insertion site.

Multimodal Anesthesia – Your pet's anesthesia is specific to their individual health, breed, age, weight, bloodwork, and examination results. Our goal is to use the lowest doses possible while still maintaining adequate anesthetic depth. We accomplish this by using a combination of injectable and inhalant anesthetics.

Constant Monitoring – During the procedure, your pet is monitored by electronic equipment that measures oxygen, blood pressure, heart rate, and other vital signs. There is also a trained veterinary technician at your pet's side through the entire anesthetic event who is manually monitoring your pet along with the equipment to ensure accuracy and a smooth procedure.

Pain Management – Proper pain management is essential for your pet before, during, and after the procedure. Your pet will receive pre-operative and post-operative pain medication as needed to ensure a smooth recovery. Local anesthetics are also used for any extractions that may be required. Anti-emetic (anti-nausea) medications may be warranted as well for any nausea experienced from the anesthesia.

Intubation – In order to secure your pet's airway, we insert a plastic, flexible breathing tube into their trachea. This ensures a flow of oxygen and anesthesia, as well as allowing us to manually breathe for your pet in case of an emergency. After recovery you may notice some tracheal irritation such as coughing or gagging.

Along with our safety measures, we also involve other detailed diagnostics to ensure a thorough and comprehensive procedure.

DURING

DENTAL RADIOGRAPHS

Dental radiographs (x-rays) allow us to visualize the tooth roots and pulp cavities to determine tooth health. This also allows us to see bone integrity within the jaw. These x-rays are essential in detecting subgingival pathology.

CLEANING & POLISHING

An ultrasonic scaler is used to remove tartar, calculus, and plaque from the tooth surface and up along the gum tissue. This scaler creates microscopic grooves in the surface of the tooth which are filled with dental polish. This process accomplishes a clean and smooth tooth surface.

FULL ORAL EXAMINATION

This includes a complete inventory and charting of teeth present, and a full probing of every single tooth to check for periodontal pockets or abscesses. This also involves a full evaluation of the entire oral cavity to assess for masses or irregular tissue within the mouth.

SURGICAL EXTRACTIONS

If extractions are warranted, your technician will perform nerve blocks. These nerve blocks cause that quadrant of the mouth of the affected tooth to become numb, therefore your pet will not feel a thing. Your veterinarian will then put absorbable sutures into place to close up the gum tissue. These sutures will not need to be removed.

After the dental procedure you will go home with special feeding instructions. If extractions were necessary, you will also go home with pain medications to keep your pet comfortable during recovery.

AFTER

Dental patients go home the same day of the procedure. Your dental team will call you after your pet's procedure to update you on their recovery and set up a go-home time with you. When you come to pick up your pet, a technician will go over instructions, medications, and recovery information with you.

READY TO SCHEDULE YOUR PET'S DENTAL?

Once you schedule your dental procedure, the day before your scheduled day, a technician will call you. During this call you will discuss pre-surgical and fasting instructions for the night before. You will also set up a drop-off time for the morning of.

Set up your procedure today!

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