



SO YOUR PET NEEDS A TEETH CLEANING....This is what you can expect:

Prior to anesthesia your pet will have pre-anesthetic labwork performed. The type of labwork done will be determined by your pet's doctor and is based on your pet's age and health status. If the doctor tells you that your pet will need a "health screen", it will be performed the same day of the dental cleaning. If your pet needs to have a more extensive "general wellness profile", please bring your pet in one week before the dental cleaning so that we can submit that bloodwork to the laboratory and get the results back in time for your pet's dental work. If it is impossible for you to come in before the dental work, we can perform this same bloodwork in our laboratory the morning of the procedure. Please note that if we do the bloodwork in our laboratory it is more expensive due to the extensiveness of the testing done and the fact that we must get it done the same day.

The morning of the procedure, your pet will need to be at Case Veterinary Hospital between 7:30-8:30 am and a technician will discuss the procedure and answer any questions you may have. Your pet will need to arrive with an empty stomach, so do not feed any food after 10 pm the night before arrival. They may, however, have water.

After the doctor examines your pet, a pre-anesthetic medication is given that calms them down and eases the transition into anesthesia. Depending on the age and health status of your pet, the doctor may decide to insert an intravenous catheter prior to anesthesia and keep them on intravenous fluids throughout the procedure. Your pet is then put under general anesthesia and an endotracheal tube is inserted into the "wind-pipe" to keep the airways open. Patients breathe in an anesthetic gas to stay asleep and their vital signs are carefully monitored. The doctor will also give an antibiotic injection.

During a dental cleaning the teeth are scaled, polished, treated with fluoride and a sealant is applied much like what occurs at your own human dentist. Please note that when your pet is asleep and we are able to get a very close look at the teeth, we sometimes find abnormalities that we did not expect prior to anesthesia. In these instances we may need to perform dental x-rays to make sure that the teeth are not only healthy above the gumline, but below the gumline as well. There may also be diseased teeth that need to be removed or extracted. While we make every effort to perform as many procedures as we can at one time, there are instances (ex. An animal that needs multiple extractions or a root canal) where we clean the teeth on the first visit and have the pet return a second time to finish any remaining procedures. If you would like to be contacted for any unforeseen decisions that need to be made, it is **IMPERATIVE** that you leave a number at which you can be easily reached because your pet will be under anesthesia and we don't have the luxury of waiting for returned phone calls.

Most of our dental patients go home the same day that they are dropped off. If you arrive between 4:30-5:30 pm a veterinarian will be able to discuss with you the dental findings and procedures performed. Remember that one of the most important ways to keep your pet's teeth looking healthy is to maintain them at home. If appropriate, we will send you home with a special kit to maintain the sealant that we applied. Refer to the rest of this pamphlet for further information in keeping the teeth healthy at home.