



Dental Consultation

Today's dental consultation is intended to give you an initial idea of what your pet's dental needs may be. Our veterinarian has looked into your pet's mouth and determined a grade of Dental Disease. However, during a non-surgical consultation, we may not always be able to accurately diagnose tooth fractures or all necessary extractions. Once we are able to put your pet under anesthesia and clean and polish their teeth to remove all plaque and tarter, we can get a clearer view of what needs to be done.

Throughout your pet's dental procedure, a complete oral exam is given to check for fractures and decaying teeth. The gums will be checked for infection, pockets, and visible tumors. An ultrasonic scaler will be used to remove tarter from the surface of the teeth. Sometimes tarter is hidden under the gum line. The ultrasonic scaler helps to remove this difficult to reach tarter. After the plaque and tarter are removed, your pet's teeth will be polished above and below the gum line. Finally, your pet's teeth will be rinsed with an oral disinfectant.

Extractions

One of the main purposes of a dental cleaning is to prevent tooth loss and/or damage. When severe decay, infection, or periodontal disease exists, it may be necessary to extract one or more of your pet's teeth, sometimes several. These extractions can be difficult to predict, as we cannot see the degree of decay or infection until after we have finished the cleaning. It is important to be aware that rotten teeth cause substantial pain to your pet and act as a continual source of infection to the rest of their body.

If you do not want our veterinarian to perform any extractions during the dental, even if the extractions are necessary, then unfortunately we cannot provide a dental cleaning. Our priority is the wellbeing of your pet, and undergoing anesthesia is the most dangerous part of the entire procedure. Therefore, we will not perform a dental cleaning without also performing ALL necessary extractions at that time. This means that we are unable to limit the number of extractions performed on the day of surgery or place a financial cap because that would limit our veterinarian's ability to provide complete care. In the event you're facing financial difficulty, please let us know, as we are happy to work with you. It is safest that your pet only undergo anesthesia once, receive complete care, and recover.

When we perform an extraction, it is ONLY because it is necessary for your pet's health

Staging Periodontal disease for treatment

Our veterinarian will assess your pet's tooth damage by the loss of the periodontal ligament responsible for connecting the teeth to the underlying bone. This ligament can become destroyed by excessive tartar and gingivitis.

Stage 0: Mild Tartar, gums unaffected

Stage 1: Mild tartar, gingivitis (inflamed gums), no attachment loss

Stage 2: Mild to Moderate Tartar, gingivitis, < 25% ligament loss, stable teeth

Stage 3: Tartar, gingivitis, 25-50% ligament loss, mobile teeth may require extractions.

Stage 4: Tartar, gingivitis>50% ligament loss, mobile and decaying teeth, extractions required.

Can you call me before removing teeth?

Unfortunately, we are unable to interrupt your pet's dental to make a call before performing any extractions. Our top priority is your pets' safety and comfort. During the dental cleaning, your pet's face will become wet, which will effect their temperature, leading them to get colder faster, even with the use of our heated surgery table and coverings. A dental procedure is a lengthy procedure and our goal is to get your pet into recovery as soon as possible. For these reasons, our veterinarian cannot keep your pet in surgery any longer than necessary. In the event that extractions are performed or the vet needs to talk to you, she will call you after your pet's dental is complete or as soon as possible. In the event a simple extraction is performed, our receptionist on staff will call to update you.