



Spay Illinois

Dental Consultations

General Information

Today's dental consultation is intended to give you an initial estimate of your pet's dental needs. Our veterinarian has performed an examination and determined that due to the level of dental disease present, your pet could benefit from a professional dental cleaning. Due to the limits of performing an oral exam without sedation, today's consultation may not provide an accurate assessment in regards to fractures and/or needs for extractions. Once we are able to place your pet under anesthesia, removal of plaque and tartar will allow us to perform a more thorough exam. During the procedure, a complete oral exam will be given to assess fractures and decaying teeth. Your pet's gumline will be checked for infection, deep pockets within the gums, and visible tumors. An ultrasonic scaler will be used to remove tartar from the surface of the teeth, including tartar under the gumline. After all plaque and tartar are removed, your pet's teeth will be polished with toothpaste and a fluoride foam will be applied.

Extractions

One of the main purposes of the dental cleaning is to prevent tooth loss and/or damage. When teeth are exposed to severe decay, infection, or periodontal disease, it may become necessary that one or more of your pet's teeth be extracted. These extractions can be difficult to predict, as it is not possible to determine the degree of decay or infection until a cleaning has been completed. It is important to be aware that diseased teeth and inflamed gums can cause substantial pain to your pet and even shorten their lifespan.

Extractions, especially the exact number of teeth requiring extraction, can be difficult to assess during the consultation. At Spay Illinois, we will only extract teeth when absolutely necessary, but cannot and will NOT call before performing necessary extractions. (It is important to limit the amount of time your pet spends under anesthesia) In the event that you do not want your pet to receive any extractions during the dental procedure, then unfortunately we will be unable to provide the dental cleaning. Furthermore, we are unable to limit the number of extractions performed or place a financial cap on any given procedure. Doing so would limit our veterinarian's ability to provide complete care. As always, your pet's wellbeing is our top priority.

Spay Illinois is unable to perform dental radiographs (x-rays). Dental x-rays are an important diagnostic tool, as they can indicate disease hiding below the gums, which aren't visible to the naked eye.

Cats in particular can exhibit significant numbers of lesions involving the roots and periodontal ligaments, which are only visible via x-ray.

X-rays are also important because they can ensure that no remnants of extracted teeth are left behind, to avoid problems in the future.

Although dental x-rays are recommended, a dental cleaning is still invaluable in improving your pet's quality of life and reducing infection. If you do wish to have a dental cleaning performed with dental x-rays, please let us know and we will refer you to a specialist.