

DENTAL PROCEDURES AND YOUR PET

Dental procedures are some of the most frequently performed surgeries in veterinary medicine. Unlike humans it should be noted that ALL dental procedures in animals require general anaesthesia and as such have an inherent risk associated (which can be reduced through careful planning, intravenous fluids and blood testing). Generally there are two types of procedures that are undertaken:

Dental Prophylaxis:

It involves a routine check-up for the teeth as well as de-scaling (both manual & ultrasonic) to remove tartar/plaque followed by polishing. The aim of this procedure is to maintain good oral hygiene for your pet and prevent dental disease. This is similar to the procedure carried out by human dentists and should be done on a regular basis in conjunction with other prophylactic measures such as:

- Regular teeth cleaning using toothpaste or gel
- The use of specially designed dental chews & toys
- Special diets prescribed by your veterinary surgeon

PLEASE NOTE** During dental prophylaxis it may become apparent that your pet has a more serious dental problem and further action may need to be taken, such as a tooth extraction. As a consequence, all consent forms for dental prophylaxis are filled out in such a way as to allow us to perform such a procedure if deemed necessary i.e. the inclusion of +/- extractions.

A VETERINARY SURGEON WILL NEVER REMOVE A HEALTHY TOOTH!

Dental Surgery (Extractions):

This is undertaken when dental disease is identified on clinical examination, and is a more complex procedure involving the extraction of affected teeth. Initially the teeth are cleaned as per a dental prophylaxis and re-examined: severely damaged, loose or problem teeth are identified and are removed. In more severe cases of dental disease the vet may also recommend radiographs, biopsies of gum tissue or lymph nodes and/or blood tests e.g. kidney blood profiles and viral testing in cats. Your pet may also be given antibiotics and if teeth are extracted they will require pain medications.

Aftercare: After the dental has been performed the mouth will be sensitive and you may well see some blood. If teeth are moved soft food should be fed for 3-7 days post-surgery (dry food should be soaked). Always finish any course of medication and attend follow-up consultations. Once the mouth has healed preventative dental health care should be commenced (toothpastes, gels, toys, chews and prescription diet), discuss with the vet to find out the best prevention for your pet.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONSULT YOUR VET

牙齒保健

牙科手術乃獸醫最常施行的外科程序之一。有別於人類，動物的所有牙科手術程序均需於全身麻醉下進行，故需衡量其風險（可藉周詳計劃、靜脈輸液及驗血減低風險）。常見的牙科程序有二：

洗牙

獸醫會先詳細檢查牙齒狀況，然後用人手及超聲波去除牙石及牙菌膜，最後會將牙齒打磨光滑。洗牙的目的是保持口腔衛生及防止牙齦炎及牙周病等，有如人類到牙醫診所洗牙一樣。除定期洗牙外，主人亦應：

- 定期使用牙膏或潔牙啫喱為寵物擦牙
- 間中可給予牙膠、潔齒棒等
- 餵飼獸醫處方的潔齒食糧

注意** 洗牙過程中獸醫有機會察覺比原先估計嚴重的牙齒問題，間中需要其他治療方法如拔除有問題牙齒。故此，在手術同意書上，洗牙程序會同時聲明「可能脫牙」一項。

獸醫絕不會拔除健康牙齒。

脫牙

獸醫若在臨床檢查時發現壞牙便可能施行拔牙。一般程序下，獸醫會先清洗有問題的牙齒以便深入檢查，如遇牙齒嚴重受損、鬆脫或有其他病變便會拔除。若病例特別複雜，獸醫甚至會建議 X 光檢查、牙肉或淋巴結活組織化驗、血液檢驗如腎指數檢測或病毒檢測（貓隻）。獸醫有機會處方抗生素及止痛藥。

事後護理

動物在洗牙及脫牙後口腔會比較敏感，亦可能會有少量出血。閣下可遵獸醫指示餵飼濕軟的食物（如把乾糧浸濕）約三至七日。閣下同時應按指示餵藥及依時覆診。當口腔及牙肉完全康復以後，閣下可開始為動物擦牙、使用潔牙啫喱、餵飼潔齒骨、咬牙膠及潔齒糧等。請向獸醫查詢最適合你的寵物的口腔護理方法。

欲知道更多有關詳情可請教你的獸醫