

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