



What to expect for your dog or cat's dental . . .

Do not feed your pet after 10pm the night before the procedure. Water does not need to be taken away.

Please bring your pet in between 7 and 7:30am for check in. This check-in time allows us to begin getting all of our patients ready for their surgery. We start surgeries first thing in the morning and, depending on how many we have for the day, may finish in early to mid-afternoon.

If your pet has not been examined recently, our doctors will perform a pre-surgical exam.

If you elect, pre-anesthetic blood work is completed and reviewed by the doctor prior to anesthesia. This will enable the doctors to make any needed adjustments to the medications used for anesthesia. If significant abnormalities are found on this blood work, the doctor may choose to postpone the dental procedure and investigate these changes more thoroughly.

A pre-anesthetic drug will be given to relax your pet and help with pain control.

If you elect, an IV catheter will be placed in the morning prior to the dental. This catheter will allow easy access to a vein in the event of an emergency. It will also allow us to administer fluids during the procedure which can help maintain blood pressure and aid in blood flow to the liver and kidneys.

Once he or she is under anesthesia, we have a dedicated nurse monitoring your pet's vitals while we scale and polish the teeth.

Unfortunately, pets do not allow us to look close enough into their mouths to determine the health of a tooth while they are awake. A thorough oral examination is possible only when they are under anesthesia. While your pet is under, we recommend full mouth x-rays. The x-rays will allow visualization of the roots, pulp, and bones of the jaw to help determine the health of the tooth. Because of this, the number of extractions that may be needed cannot always be determined prior to the procedure.

We will call you when the procedure is complete (or during the procedure if we have any questions or updates for you). Normally your pet can go home after the dental between 5 and 7pm, but the doctor will let you know the exact time based on how quickly your pet is waking up from anesthesia.

Please be sure to ask any questions you may have! We will be happy to answer them for you.