

Dental +/- Extractions



LITTLE CREEK
VETERINARY CLINIC

WHAT THE PROCEDURE INVOLVES:

Full mouth dental radiographs and complete oral examination, scaling and polishing of the teeth. Scaling is performed under the gumline, which can be an uncomfortable and painful experience if done without anesthesia. Depending on what is found on the radiographs and examination, there may be extractions required.

WHAT IS A "DENTAL"?

In order for your veterinarian to be able to fully examine your pets' teeth, they will be required to be fully anesthetized. We do this so we are able to take and interpret radiographs of each of your pets' teeth (42 for dogs and 30 for cat), fully assess each tooth and its attachment to the bone. We also probe in at least 6 different spots along the gumline and record any abnormalities for each tooth. Periodontal disease also occurs UNDER the gumline and may not be visible to the naked eye. If warranted, the tooth and all of the roots are extracted, then post-extraction radiographs are performed to ensure complete extraction. Our highly trained RVTs work with our veterinarians to scale the teeth of visible plaque and tartar, ensuring all tartar is removed from under the gum line to help prevent further periodontal disease. Once plaque is removed, the teeth are then polished to ensure there is no unevenness left on the enamel caused from the removal of plaque/tartar during the scaling process.

POTENTIAL COMPLICATIONS (DURING SURGERY AND/OR RECOVERY)

- Hemorrhage (excessive bleeding)
- Dehiscence (sutures coming undone)
- Swelling/inflammation of the mouth
- Chewing of the tongue
- Infection
- Oral/nasal fistula(s)
- Jaw fractures

POTENTIAL ANESTHETIC COMPLICATIONS

- Airway irritation
- Low blood pressure
- Hypothermia/hyperthermia
- Cardiovascular collapse
- Respiratory depression
- Gastric reflux
- Aspiration pneumonia
- Hypoxic brain damage
- Embolism
- Death

RECOVERY TIME

Your pet will be monitored closely during surgery and as it awakens from anesthesia. Your pet will go home with detailed instructions for at home care and exercise restriction. You should expect if your pet had extractions to feed a soft food diet – either canned food or moistened kibble determined by how much extractions there were.

