

Dentistry at Trenant Park Pet Clinic

Like humans, pet dental care is an important part of a healthy lifestyle. Without proper dental care, our pets can suffer from pain and discomfort, poor appetite, and infection causing risk to vital organs. Brushing your pets' teeth daily, using dental products to aid in oral hygiene, and diet can help prevent dental disease. However, not every pet will allow daily dental care, while some pets may be predisposed to dental disease due to genetics and breed. Chewing on hard bones or other objects can also cause damage to the enamel or broken teeth requiring dental care. Due to various circumstances your pet may be recommended a dental prophylaxis under general anesthetic. Here is some information on what to expect:

Physical Examination:

A full physical examination is required prior to the dental procedure to ensure your pet is in good health. The examination by the Veterinarian will include listening to your pet's heart and lungs, palpating the abdomen, checking eyes and ears, and assessing the mouth and teeth as thoroughly as possible.

Pre-anesthetic Lab Work:

Lab work is required prior to the general anesthetic and specific lab tests completed based on your pet's age, history and predispositions. Lab work aids in diagnosing underlying issues that may not present upon exam alone and can pose an added risk to your pet under general anesthetic.

Scheduling, Preparation and Day of Procedure:

Once the exam and lab work are completed and reviewed by the Veterinarian, you will be able to schedule the procedure. Staff will be able to book an admittance time for your pet on the day of the procedure and inform you of any preparations such as fasting, when medications (if your pet is currently taking) should be given or withheld, and any other specific instructions for your pet. On the day of the procedure a veterinary technician will ask you a few questions regarding your pet and obtain contact information. A legal owner of the animal will need to be present unless pre-arranged with the clinic.

General Anesthetic:

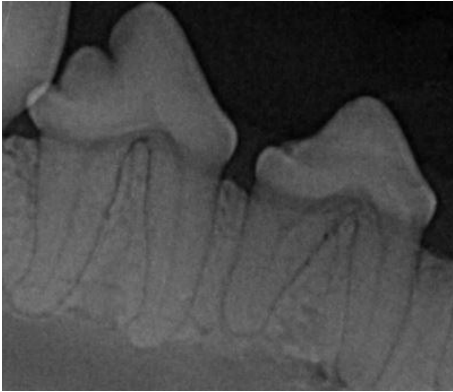
Although general anesthetic is not without risk, the safest and most effective protocol will be selected specifically for your pet. A pre-anesthetic exam is performed the day of the procedure; intravenous fluids will be placed by a catheter to manage blood pressure, maintain hydration, allow accessibility to a vein for medications, and to flush the body of the anesthetic post surgery. Sedatives are given prior to the anesthetic to keep your pet comfortable, calm, and prepare for the induction of anesthetic. Your pet will be intubated to allow proper oxygenation, respiratory rate, and to maintain your pet at a safe and effective level of anesthetic. A trained veterinary technician will be present during the entire procedure to monitor your pet's vital signs, to administer appropriate medication as advised by the veterinarian, to assist in the procedure and ensure your pet is safe, comfortable and in the best care. Monitoring equipment is used to measure such things as oxygenation, respiratory rate, blood pressure, and heart rate.

Dental Radiographs:

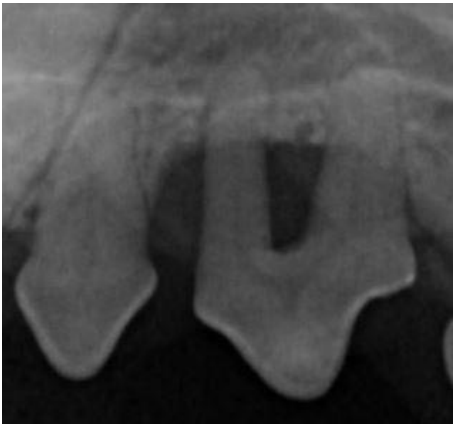
Full mouth radiographs are done once your pet is fully anesthetized. Radiographs of the teeth allow the veterinarian to assess below the gum line. Although probing around the teeth and a physical examination aid in determining if a tooth is healthy, oftentimes infection or abnormalities can hide under the gum line and cause issues for your pet. Radiographs are a very important tool that allows the veterinarian to have a thorough assessment of your animal's mouth and decide if further treatment is required.



Dental Radiographs



This is an x-ray of Healthy teeth



This is an x-ray of a dog with severe dental disease. You can see that the bone around the roots of the teeth has receded away from the tooth roots. These teeth will need to be removed.



Once we have removed the affected teeth we take another x-ray to make sure that all the roots have been removed and there is no damage to the jaw bone.

Scaling and Polishing:

Teeth scaling, and polishing is performed by a veterinary technician or the Veterinarian. During this process each tooth is scaled safely above and below the gum line to remove plaque and tartar (scaling below the gum line is often missed during anesthetic free dental cleaning and therefore the physical appearance of the clean teeth may be misleading; the teeth may be in jeopardy due to bacteria sitting below the gum line). After scaling is complete, the teeth are then polished to smooth the enamel discouraging plaque and tartar from adhering to the tooth.



The ultrasonic scaler is being used to remove tartar from the dog's teeth



A periodontal probe is being used to detect periodontal pockets in this dog

Dental Extractions:

If a problem (infection, mobility of tooth, broken tooth, cavity, retained baby tooth, etc) is discovered by exam, radiographs and probing then your Veterinarian will recommend having the tooth extracted to prevent discomfort, further dental disease and infection. Your pet will be given a local anesthetic, antibiotic, and pain control to keep them comfortable during and after the dental extraction.

Recovery/Aftercare:

Your pet will be kept warm and comfortable while they wake from anesthetic. Sedatives and pain control are given if your pet is uncomfortable or anxious during the recovery process within the clinic. You will be contacted and informed of how your pet is recovering. A discharge time will be arranged when your pet is awake and mobile. At the time of discharge, you will be given written homecare instructions, any medications dispensed and an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. We will also recommend any follow up appointments if required. We will be in contact the following day to see how your pet is progressing after the dental procedure.

Preventative Dental Care:

If your pet had a routine scale and polish without any extractions, or other procedures at the time of anesthetic, we will review some preventative dental care with you. Pamphlets with instructions and products recommended will be given to you. If your pet requires a follow up appointment, we will discuss this information during that time.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding dental care or a dental prophylaxis under general anesthetic for your pet, please do not hesitate to call and speak to one of our staff members who will be happy to assist you.