

Preparing for Your Pet's Dental Procedure? Here's What You Need to Know!

Arrival and Intake:

Preparation starts the night before surgery. Make sure to give any medications you were instructed to use pre-operatively and that your pet has no access to food after 10pm. On the day of surgery, please plan to arrive at 8 am. One of our surgery technicians will guide you through intake forms and we will need a person 18 years or older to sign the surgical consent form.

Pre-Surgery Process:

As soon as your pet is admitted, they will probably receive an oral medication to help them stay calm during their stay and reduce the amount of general anesthesia they need for surgery.

Once your pet is admitted, your pet's surgeon will perform an intake exam and we will run preoperative blood work if it has not been done within the past three months, and your pet's surgeon will perform an intake exam. As long as there are no new and concerning findings on the bloodwork or upon intake that would postpone surgery, Once the surgeon has cleared your pet for surgery they will prepare your pet's custom anesthetic plan.

Comfort and Care During the Procedure:

Unlike in humans, general anesthesia is needed for a thorough dental cleaning in pets. This is most important so that a tube can guard your pets airway while their teeth are scaled. Dental cleaning can be an uncomfortable procedure, and anesthesia prevents stress and pain. While your pet is under anesthesia, our skilled surgical technicians will monitor them closely using state-of-the-art equipment.

The Dental Procedure and Recovery:

The surgical team will perform the dental procedure, which will include full mouth x-rays, scaling and polishing of the teeth and extractions if necessary. A veterinary technician will perform the same tasks a dental hygienist would perform, and the doctor will evaluate the x-rays and perform any necessary oral surgery. You will receive a call when the procedure is complete with a set pick up time, usually between 3pm and 5pm. You will receive written instructions and a veterinary nurse will go over home-care instructions when you arrive to pick up your pet.

Post-Procedure Care at Home:

Your pet will be groggy and possibly restless when they get home. They may also be confused that their mouth is numb if oral surgery was needed. These side effects should wear off overnight. Should extractions be necessary your pet will need to be on a soft diet for two weeks post surgery. In some cases, pets will need to wear a cone for the first week after oral surgery to prevent disruption of the surgery site. Make sure to monitor your pet's eating, drinking, and behavior.

We're here to support you and your pet through every step of the process! If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to our team 617-332-7030.