

DUNCAN'S DAY OF DENTISTRY

This is a step-by-step guide of what your pet will experience while here for an Oral Assessment and Treatment:

A pre-anesthetic exam is performed prior to the procedure. This is to ensure there are no new health concerns that would put your pet at risk while under anesthesia. Once this is completed, your pet will receive pre-anesthetic pain medications. These medications help relax your pet before the procedure and help minimize any pain your pet may feel upon waking.

1. An intravenous catheter is placed and we use it to administer the anesthetic drugs, give IV fluids to help maintain your pet's blood pressure, and also as a port for other medications should the need arise during the procedure.



Placing the I.V. catheter.



Monitoring the patient under anesthesia.

2. Your pet is then given its induction drugs which will put your pet under anesthesia. An endotracheal tube is placed to deliver oxygen and maintenance anesthetic gas. This tube will also help to prevent tartar and other foreign material from entering your pet's lungs.

3. Before the oral assessment and treatment is started, your pet is placed on several monitoring devices that monitor heart rate and rhythm, respiratory rate, oxygen level, blood pressure and temperature. A heating unit is used to keep him/her warm. Your pet will also begin to receive IV fluids.

4. First the dental tartar (also known as calculus) is removed from the tooth surface. This is done by a combination of hand scaling and the use of an ultrasonic scaler. The ultrasonic scaler literally vibrates tartar off of the teeth. Next, plaque and tartar must be removed from beneath the gum tissue. Removing the plaque is a very important part of the procedure since plaque and tartar contain millions of bacteria. If not removed from under the gum line, bacteria will cause infection of the gums or gingivitis that can progress to periodontal disease. Periodontal disease is a painful condition that ultimately leads to tooth loss. After removal of the plaque and calculus, X-rays of all of your pet's teeth will be taken to evaluate the root and the bone structure of each tooth. More than half of the tooth structure is under the gum tissue, so X-rays are necessary to properly diagnose and treat your pet's oral disease. Your veterinarian will combine their oral exam with the X-rays to determine appropriate treatment for each one of your pet's teeth. Further treatment may include oral surgery or periodontal surgery.



Scaling and polishing the teeth.

5. After the procedure, your pet is closely monitored by a technician until he/she is awake enough to have the endotracheal tube removed, then kept under staff supervision in the ICU. Once fully recovered from anesthesia, your pet may then be transferred from the ICU area to a bed in our hospital ward, where he/she will be monitored, and kept warm and comfortable until he/she is able to go home. The doctor will call to discuss how the procedure(s) went, go over all treatments received and finally schedule a discharge appointment for you with the technician that evening. When your pet is released, a technician will review the procedure, treatments and post-treatment care, and will answer any questions or concerns you may have.



Before Oral Assessment and Treatment



After Oral Assessment and Treatment



GOOD ORAL HYGIENE AT HOME

Brushing Teeth:

- Brushing your pet's teeth daily is the most effective way to decrease plaque and tartar accumulation for your pet. This is the best method for preventing oral disease in your pet. It is easier than it sounds because you only need to brush the outer surfaces of the teeth. This means you do NOT have to pry the mouth open while brushing the teeth.
- Use a children's soft toothbrush or a veterinary recommended pet toothbrush.
- Use a flavored toothpaste made for animals (eg: C.E.T. poultry flavor), allowing your pet to lick the paste for a week or two prior to actually brushing.
- DO NOT use human toothpaste, as it is irritating to your pet's stomachs.

Purina DH and other Tartar-Prevention Diets:

- DH is a special diet designed to reduce the formation of plaque and tartar. The kibble is structured in such a way that when bitten it provides a cleansing action. Use of this food is equivalent to brushing once a week.

C.E.T. Oral Rinse:

- These can be applied with a Q-tip or with the supplied applicator.
- These should be used daily and help to reduce the bacteria that form plaque, the precursor of tartar.
- A C.E.T. oral rinse is a useful strategy for pets when brushing is not feasible.

Other Strategies:

- C.E.T. Chews, Purina Chewz or VeggieDent Chews can also be used, but only as a partial preventative.
- Chewing on hard food or Milk Bone Biscuits is of limited value in preventing tartar and adds additional calories to the diet.
- We do **NOT** recommend giving your pet real bones or nylon bones to chew because of the increased chance of molar tooth fracture.
- Remember that there is no perfect chew toy for your pet. Supervision should be provided whenever your pet is given chew toys. A good rule to follow is that dogs should never chew on anything harder than their teeth.

Plan for the Future:

- Your veterinarian will discuss the value of a complete oral exam during your pet's next wellness exam. Depending on how you are doing with homecare, an Oral Assessment and Treatment may be recommended.

Additional Online Oral Health Resources:

- www.monroevets.com
- www.toothvet.ca
- www.dentalvet.com
- www.oralatp.com
- www.advc.org
- www.purinaveterinarydiets.com/Product/DHDentalHealthDogFood.aspx
- www.purinaveterinarydiets.com/Product/DHDentalHealthCatFood.aspx