



**CARE**  
Animal Hospital



## Dental Cleaning, Procedures & Surgery

### **Tooth Cleaning:**

- |                                  |                                    |  |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| -Pre-Surgical evaluation         | -Anesthesia                        | -Tooth analysis (pockets, cavities, gum recession) |
| -Pre-Anesthetic blood testing    | -Monitoring-Anesthesia             | -Charting of each tooth at cleaning                |
| -Intravenous catheter and fluids | -Digital Dental X-rays (as needed) | - Tooth cleaning/ polishing                        |
| - Home treatment program         |                                    |  |

**X-rays** are used as a way of evaluating what we can't see. As with any human, only x-rays can help discover tooth root problems and developing periodontal disease which cannot be seen on visual examination. Once bone tissue is gone, it cannot be restored without remarkable bone surgery and grafting. X-rays help us to diagnose and better treat periodontal disease.

### **Fluoride Treatment:**

Topical application of fluoride helps harden enamel to prevent plaque and tartar and tooth decay. This is necessary at each dental event. This is a wonderful and easy method to prevent gum and tooth disease.

### **Gingivitis Vaccination:**

Porphyromonas is the name of the bad bacteria that lives in a dog's mouth and causes gum infections, mouth odor, periodontal disease, and pain. A vaccination against this bad bacteria helps prevent all forms of gum disease and help maintain proper oral health for your pet.

### **Gum injections:**

Gum pockets and injections- By probing the teeth we can discover abnormal, deep gum pockets that can develop and cause loss of bone leading to tooth pain, mobility, and the need for extraction. Pockets can be "injected" with material to help repair gum disease and gum loss, helping to save a tooth.

### **Periodontal Surgery:**

The treatment for periodontal disease is periodontal surgery. If x-rays show bone loss associated with gum loss, surgical intervention helps reposition gum tissue over exposed tooth crowns or roots. This can greatly increase the chance of restoring and surviving teeth and prevent pain associated with gum and bone loss.

### **Tooth restoration:**

If a specific tooth is partially broken (fractured), it may be possible to "restore" an area of the tooth and prevent extraction. A dental acrylic is "light cured" to the tooth to prevent decay and tooth loss.

### **Cat Cavities:**

FORL means Feline Odontoclastic Resorptive Lesions. Cat "cavities" occur on teeth as a cat ages. These areas cause severe pain, weight loss, and lethargy. X-rays will help determine if a tooth can be restored with a "glass ionomer" or will require extraction. It is vital to stop the pain and tooth disease.

### **Bone Acrylic:**

If an extraction site leaves a deep root hole, it can compromise bone healing. A particulate "bone acrylic" is used to fill the hole to promote bone healing and restore strength to a root and bone.

### **Extractions:**

When tooth removal is necessary, proper extraction, filling the cavity and suturing is necessary to allow the area to heal without infection and minimize pain.

### **Pain Medication:**

Your pet may require pain medication for a number of days after a dental surgery. Reducing pain actually helps the healing process.

### **Antibiotics:**

Your pet may require post surgical antibiotics to prevent infection and promote healing of gums and teeth.

### **Food:**

Often, after a dental surgery, soft food is recommended to prevent pain in the mouth and help tissues to heal. Crunching dry food after surgery may hinder healing and promote pain.

### **Home Care: Do what you can!! There is no substitute for proper home care!**

- ~Brushing-if our dentists thought there was something better than brushing . . . we would be doing it! Brushing teeth and gums is the mainstay to dental care.
- ~Pastes- Oravet is a thick paste applied regularly to the tooth surface to prevent tartar buildup. This is a great treatment for difficult to treat pets.
- ~Gels- Application of a gel to the teeth and gums helps prevent tartar and gum disease. These gels have antibacterial products to decrease plaque accumulation.
- ~Rinses- These are liquid products to put in the mouth (that can be swallowed) and are helpful in removing bad bacteria that promote tartar and gum disease.
- ~Hard food or treats- "Greenies" are chews that help prevent tartar. Hills has a prescription diet T/D, a hard, crunchy kibble to be given as a treat.
- ~Water Supplement- Fluoride added to water bowls . . .