



Blue Springs

Animal Hospital & Pet Resort

"It's All About Caring"



Dental Cleaning- Aftercare

General Information

Your pet had a general anesthetic today which enabled us to perform a professional dental examination and cleaning. The anesthetic may cause your pet to be tired and uninterested in playing or eating this evening. Generally, recovery is uneventful and your pet's attitude and appetite will soon return to normal.

Home Care

1. Offer your pet half it's normal meal and a small amount of water this evening. If your pet tries to gulp food or water, only offer it small amounts at first. Do not be alarmed if your pet does not eat tonight. Please call if your pet refuses food for more than 24 hours.
2. If your pet had teeth extracted, you may need to offer moistened or soft food for several days.
3. Your pet will have an antibiotic prescription to eliminate infection in the gums. Start the antibiotics in the morning and give according to the label instructions.

Future Dental Care

After the teeth are cleaned, you can help decrease the rate of future tartar formation by following these suggestions. This will not eliminate the need for future professional cleaning (just as we must have our teeth regularly cleaned by our dentist), but it will reduce the need for future dentistry.

1. The best way to prevent tartar is to brush your pet's teeth daily with an enzymatic toothpaste and toothbrush developed for the teeth of cats and dogs. Most pets like the taste of the paste and will allow their teeth to be brushed. We have these products available and would be happy to demonstrate how to use them.
2. Feed hard or coarse food rather than soft moistened or canned food. If your pet builds up tartar quickly, you may want to consider a prescription food by Hill's Science Diet called "t/d". This food is specially formulated to reduce tartar formation. It is a nutritionally complete food that replaces your pet's current food. It could also be given as treats, though this is not as effective as feeding it in place of other foods.
3. Provide rawhide, hard rubber, and nylon chew toys. We recommend C.E.T. Chews that are rawhide chips, which have been impregnated with a disinfectant that retards tartar-forming bacteria.
4. If your pet dislikes chewing, or does not like the "t/d", a product called "Oxyfresh" is an option. Oxyfresh is a tasteless liquid that is added in small amounts to your pet's drinking water that will freshen their breath and reduce tartar buildup as they drink.
5. "Maxi-guard" oral gel is another alternative.
6. Regular professional cleaning by your veterinarian will also be needed periodically to ensure good dental health for your pet.

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