



## How Much is Your Investment Into a Twelve Step Professional Oral Health Visit?

- ◆ **Step 1: pre-anesthetic examination.** This is part of our routine wellness/medical examinations.
- ◆ **Steps 2-9, 11, 12: The Gentle Dental Cleaning: Baseline Diagnostic and Treatment Plan**
  - includes pre-anesthetic biochemical health screen, anesthesia, and safety protocol
  - excludes Step 10 - Advanced Therapy, if recommended

**Dogs: from \$316.90 to \$416.90\***

**Cats: from \$266.90 to \$376.90\***

\*prices vary with the severity of oral disease present.

## Safety Protocol for ALL animals receiving a Professional Oral Health Care Visit at Westonka Animal Hospital:

- An intravenous catheter
- Pre-anesthetic blood biochemical health screen
- ECG evaluation
- gas anesthesia – the best anesthetic protocol for oral procedures
- blood pressure monitoring
- body temperature monitoring
- post procedure pain control (if needed)



### When comparing dental services, does another dental care provider:

- ☐ Perform all twelve steps? Many other providers only provide the first 8 steps.
- ☐ Have ASVDT Qualified Technicians supervising scaling & polishing for your pet like Westonka?
- ☐ Use the safety protocols listed above?
- ☐ Perform deep cleanings of the inflamed, painful tissue under the gums where the serious disease exists?
- ☐ Perform advanced diagnostics like dental x-rays and advanced treatment such as flap surgeries and root canal therapy?

<http://www.dentalvet.com/patients/procare/12steps.htm>

## Twelve Steps To A Professional Oral Health Care Visit

All twelve steps are important and interlinked. When one step is not performed, patients suffer.

**1) Oral examination during physical exam.** This great starting point is most often performed during a routine physical examination.



**2) Detailed Oral examination While Anesthetized** We examine individual teeth for mobility, fractures, malocclusion, and periodontal disease and probe for pocket depths while the pet is under general anesthesia.



**3) Supragingival (above the gumline) plaque and tartar removal** using forceps, hand instruments, and ultrasonic scaling equipment, plaque and calculus is removed above the gumline.



**4) Subgingival (below the gumline) scaling, root planing, curettage.** Our certified dental technicians are trained to properly and gently clean the diseased tissue below the gumline. The cleaning below the gumline is a vital part of the professional oral health care visit. This step is painful, which is why pets require anesthesia and where a qualified medical professional must be involved.

**5) Polishing** removes minor enamel defects which can be attachment points for new calculus.

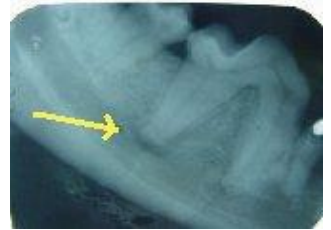
**6) Irrigation** removes diseased tissue and plaque from the gum pocket.

**7) Fluoride** may help maintain the strength and protect the enamel.

**The remaining steps, Steps 8 through 12, unfortunately, are often not performed by other veterinary clinics when doing a "dental" or "teeth cleaning". It is our standard procedure to include all twelve steps.**



**8) Diagnostics.** After cleaning, teeth are examined individually via periodontal probing, compressed air application to the gingiva, and radiology (if indicated). A treatment plan is then devised. This is why it is important for us to be able to contact you on the day when your pet is with us during a professional teeth-cleaning treatment.



**75%** of dental patients should have dental radiographs (x-rays) taken.

**9) Charting.** Record the disease that is present before starting therapy.

**Tooth Root Abscess**  
A common example of a painful disease that could only be found with dentistry x-rays.



**10) Advanced Therapy to treat problems noted above.**

Some examples of advanced therapy are root canals, flap surgeries, surgical extractions, or application of long acting antibiotics into a gum pocket. We try to save teeth as much as possible and avoid extraction as much as possible. *Advanced Therapy, if recommended, will be an additional expense above the base estimate.*

*We will quote you for these recommendations first before performing them while your pet is under anesthesia.*



**11) Written Home Care Instructions.**

The pet owner is an integral part of our dental team. The dental visit is not complete until discussion is held on maintaining and improving oral health.



**12) One Week Progress Visit is included.** We ask that dental patients return one week after their cleaning, diagnostics, and treatment. At that time, a qualified dental technician will discuss with you and demonstrate daily home care.

**Daily home care is the single most important procedure the owner can do to maintain oral health.**

Daily brushing will dramatically increase the interval between teeth cleaning appointments. Plaque is constantly being made and deposited in the mouth. If you are unable to brush your pet's teeth daily, there are other options in which you can provide daily home care for your pet.

Presurgical instructions, anesthesia, and teeth cleaning visit consent forms which you may review and print from home are available online at [www.westonkaanimalhospital.com](http://www.westonkaanimalhospital.com)  
Simply follow the links from our Home Page.



For more information on a 12 Twelve Step Professional Oral Health Care visit as presented by a Board Certified Veterinary Dentist, go to:

<http://www.dentalvet.com/patients/procare/12steps.htm>