



Your pet has been scheduled for a dental cleaning. Please withhold food after 7:30pm the night before the procedure. Do not withhold water. Generally admittance time is the night before the procedure for cats (unless scheduled for a Monday; if Monday, please arrive at 7:45am) and at 7:45am for dogs.

### **Dental Cleaning with or without Extractions**

Your pet has been diagnosed with calculus (tarter) and gum disease (periodontal disease). The accumulation of tarter on the teeth and below the gum line creates an ideal environment for bacteria to grow and cause infection. This infection causes bad breath and mouth pain. Persistent infection can lead to tooth decay, root abscesses, and tooth loss. Infection from the oral cavity can also spread to other parts of the body causing pneumonia, heart valve disease, and kidney failure.

### **Dental Prophylaxis in the Clinic**

- The first step is often antibiotics. Your pet may be placed on antibiotics a few days prior to us cleaning the teeth.
- The second step is the dental procedure at the clinic. We will place an I.V. catheter to stabilize the blood pressure, hydrate your pet, and have immediate access for emergency medications. Your pet will be anesthetized for approximately 30-60 minutes while we remove the tartar using an ultrasonic scaler. If your pet has teeth which need to be extracted, we will extract them at this time.
- The third step is to polish the teeth. This step smoothes the enamel surface and removes some stains. Smooth teeth are easier to keep clean and resist tartar build-up.
- The fourth step is to apply a hospital-strength sealant called OraVet that repels the bacteria that cause tarter build-up. OraVet is also available in a home-care kit that is used once a week.
- It may be necessary to take a dental x-ray to confirm that a tooth does need extracted or that the entire root has been extracted.
- Some extractions, especially canines and 4th premolars, require a special procedure called a gum flap to make the root more visible and allows the extraction to be completed faster. If your pets' extraction requires a gum flap, there will be sutures placed. The sutures do not need to be removed.

### **Options on the Dental Release Form**

- Level 2 & 3 Blood work – 10 or 15 panel test strongly recommended for older pets to check kidney and liver function and a CBC to check white and red blood cell count & platelet count.
- While your pet is under anesthesia it is a great time to trim nails and clean ears. Please let us know if you would like this done.