

Highland Veterinary Clinic

Post Dental Care Instructions

Basic Anesthetic Recovery Instructions:

Diet:

- ◆ Because your pet has had gas anesthesia today, he or she may feel a bit nauseous or nervous. Offer a few laps of water every 15-30 minutes only for the first 6 hours after you take your pet home, then you may offer water freely. Only offer a 1/2 of a regular meal to your pet approximately 4 hours after returning home and settling in.
- ◆ The morning after the dental, you may feed your pets regular diet without special considerations, unless a prescription diet has been prescribed.
- ◆ Patients recovering from periodontal disease or major extractions may be advised to use a canned diet or a moistened hard diet for a week after his/her dental procedure.

Activity:

Drowsiness may be noted today and tomorrow, but not usually after 48 hours. Medications that involve sedation or pain intervention, may cause some drowsiness depending on the type. Keep your pet in a protected environment.

Medication:

Give pain medication as directed. Your pet should really not need a refill. Any unused pain medication should be discarded. All antibiotics should be used as directed until they are gone regardless of whether your pet's symptoms "seem to have been improved."

Dental Disease Prevention:

There really is no better dental disease prevention than brushing your pet's teeth. Brushing with an appropriate brush at a 45 degree angle, can reduce plaque and tartar formation under the gumline. Pet toothbrushes are specific to the size, breed and species of the patient. Choose a pet dentifrice that is approved by the Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC—visit www.vohc.org for approved products). Human toothpaste will nauseate your pet and should not be used!

Additionally, there are several VOHC dental chews that can greatly reduce the need for dentals and can provide a fun activity for your pet.

There are also two water additives (Breathlyser and Biotene) that we recommend to reduce dental problems and halitosis.



Nutritional Intervention:

Proper diet can reduce the number of dental scalings that your pet needs in his/her lifetime. Avoid sweets and table scraps—these treats are not only bad for your pet's teeth, but for other systems as well! Dry food can provide chewing exercise and gum stimulation. There are some special diets that can be prescribed if your dog or cat is prone to dental problems due to breed or genetic history.

Yearly Dental Check Ups

Good oral maintenance means more to your pet than better breath and cosmetics. Healthy gums and teeth can improve your pet's well-being. Unhealthy teeth can lead to systemic diseases and affect many systems such as the cardiovascular system and the renal system. During your pet's wellness visit, his/her teeth are briefly examined for problems and to gauge whether a dental is necessary. Most patients will need a dental scaling on average every 1-2 years. Many pets mask dental discomfort quite well even if the teeth appear to have little calculus build up. During the dental prophylaxis, a more thorough examination is performed, and your pet's teeth are probed for serious defects and pockets under the gumline.

Pets with more serious dental conditions, such as periodontal disease, feline odontoclastic disease, malocclusion, etc., may need their teeth examined more frequently. The doctor will recommend a regimen specific to your pet.

If your pet has Periodontal Disease:

- ◆ We should recheck your pet's mouth two weeks after the dental procedure.
- ◆ Please follow the accompanying instructions on pulse therapy: use the prescribed amount of antibiotic for five days each month.
- ◆ A Dental exam should recur every six months to gauge the progress of disease
- ◆ Keeping ahead of periodontal disease can save your pets teeth—it can also save your pet from the pain of oral bone loss.

_____ needs to visit the clinic again in _____ He or she has been diagnosed with _____ and these medications or preventative measures have been prescribed: _____

