

Continental Animal Wellness Center
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Pre-Anesthetic Expectations **Dental Procedures**

Oral health is an important aspect of your pet's overall well-being. The following procedures occur when your pet receives a dental cleaning:

1. Upon admission into the hospital, your pet's vitals are taken by a trained technician, followed by bloodwork if your veterinarian deems it necessary.
2. After your veterinarian has inspected your pet and all findings are normal, your pet is then given a pre-anesthetic sedative, followed by the anesthetic induction agent.
3. Once your pet is safely under anesthesia, the technicians take all dental radiographs and scale/polish your pet's teeth.
4. Your veterinarian then inspects your pet's radiographs and oral cavity to determine if there are any abnormalities or if any extractions are needed.
5. After the full dental procedure, your pet is then moved into recovery where the technicians closely monitor your pet, ensuring a safe anesthetic recovery.

Whether your pet will undergo a routine dental cleaning or a more advanced dental procedure (such as extractions), it is important to expect and follow these guidelines:

1. The oral cavity is very vascular (has a great blood supply), so it is normal to see a small amount of blood in your pet's food and/or water bowl. It is also normal to see blood tinged saliva in or near your pet's mouth for 1-2 days following the dental procedure.
2. Dental cleanings and oral examinations are performed under general anesthesia. The night following a dental procedure, it is normal for your pet to be more tired, sleep more than usual, or be slightly sensitive around his/her mouth. Anesthetic medications may also make your pet feel sick to his/her stomach. For this reason, it is important to feed half of the normal portion of food the night following anesthesia (unless otherwise directed by your veterinarian). Your pet may vomit some food after anesthesia (this is not uncommon).
3. Most pets tolerate dental procedures very well and require very few changes to their diets, even if multiple teeth were extracted. If directed by your veterinarian, you can soften your pet's diet by adding a small amount of warm water 30 minutes before feeding.
4. If medications, especially antibiotics, were prescribed by your veterinarian, please administer them as directed for the entire duration. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding your pet's medications.
5. We ask that you contact the hospital if you notice any of the following changes after your pet's procedure: prolonged refusal to eat or drink, pain/discomfort while eating, facial swelling, and/or foul odor from the mouth.

If you have any other questions regarding the care of your pet, please do not hesitate to call our office.