

Common Dental Health Questions

Does my pet need sedated to have a dental cleaning?

Although there are many homecare options (see below) that are done without anesthesia, a complete dental cleaning does require your pet to be sedated. The term “Dental Cleaning” refers to a full dental prophylaxis which includes probing the teeth, scaling above and below the gumline and polishing the teeth. With that in mind it is easy to see why for this procedure to be done properly it requires your pet to have anesthesia. In addition, sometimes removing heavy tartar can cause some mild discomfort for your pet so anesthesia allows them to be comfortable during the procedure. If your pet has diseased teeth, we may need to perform dental radiographs to establish the health of the teeth below the gum line. If the exam of the teeth, or dental radiographs, reveal a need for extractions of a diseased tooth the sedation will allow us to perform their extraction without causing your pet pain.

Is my pet healthy enough for anesthesia?

The doctor will assess your pet and determine if it is safe for your pet to be sedated and under anesthesia. With any anesthesia there are risks. We also recommend presurgical blood work to further determine if your pet is healthy enough for sedation and anesthesia.

Will my pet be able to eat after dental extractions?

Yes, your pet will be able to eat after having dental extractions. Most pets are eating soft food the night of their dental procedure.

How much is my dental cleaning going to cost?

We want to be able to give you an accurate estimate for the cost of your pet’s dental care so before any pet is added to our surgery schedule, we have a technician or doctor evaluate their teeth so that an estimate can be prepared for you. Several things can affect the cost including the need for dental radiographs and possible extractions so having your pets’ dental issues addressed early, before their dental disease progresses, can help to save you money and is better for their overall health. You can also review the *Preparing Your Pet for Surgery* handout on our website to learn more about other recommendations such as presurgical bloodwork and laser therapy that could affect your pricing.

Do I need to be seen for an exam before my pet can have a dental cleaning?

Yes, so we may evaluate your pet’s mouth to determine if dental extractions are needed and the severity of them. We also determine if your pet is a good candidate for sedation and anesthesia. We will be able to make a more accurate estimate for the dental procedure based on needing or not needing extractions and radiographs.

