

Teeth Cleaning Instructions

Thank you for bringing your pet to Howard County Veterinary Service, P.C. Your pet has just had their teeth cleaned and polished. This procedure helps prevent further periodontal disease, losing teeth, and even heart disease. The following are our recommendations for the optimal recovery of your pet:

Anesthesia: When your pet is discharged, they may still be groggy from the anesthesia. They may appear depressed, wobbly and may tremble. They should be allowed to recover in a quiet room at home away from other pets. Check on their progress intermittently. Please keep your pet inside or closely confined until they fully recover from anesthesia. Your pet may not be fully aware of their surroundings, so they need to be protected from potential hazards in the area (other animals, roads, etc.).

Food/Water: First offer only small amounts of water, and if they seems alert and hungry, offer small amounts of food (~ 1/3 of usual meal). Every pet recovers differently. Some pets may not want anything at all the first night. If your pet vomits, withhold food until the next morning. Call our office immediately if vomiting persists. By the next morning your pet should be alert and have a normal appetite. They can then be fed her normal volume of food. If your pet had teeth extracted today, you may want to feed canned food or soak your dry food in water as eating may be painful for the next few days.

Monitoring: By tomorrow, your pet should be eating, drinking, urinating, and defecating normally. If your pet seems excessively lethargic or uninterested in food, please contact us immediately.

Pain Medication: If you requested pain medication to be given, the medication should control pain for up to 48 hours following surgery. If medication has been prescribed and dispensed, please give this medication to your pet according to label instructions.

Prevention: There are many ways to prevent tartar buildup on your pet's teeth in order to decrease the frequency of teeth cleanings. We sell tooth brushes and tooth paste for dogs and cats. Brushing your pet's teeth is the most effective way to prevent periodontal disease. However, the teeth must be brushed at least 3-4 times weekly for brushing to make a difference. There are also a number of treats that promote oral health, such as Greenies. For more severe cases of periodontal disease, special diets can be fed, such as Hill's t/d.

Thanks again for your continued support of Howard County Veterinary Service, P.C. Your business is much appreciated. If you have questions or concerns regarding your pet's