

## What to expect after your pets dental cleaning

After a dental procedure, you can expect your pet to be a little sleepy and quieter than normal. They have undergone a general anesthetic and ultrasonic cleaning to carry out the procedure. Keep your pet in a nice warm, secure area after the procedure so that they can recover in a safe place and so you can keep an eye on them.

Once your pet has arrived home you can offer them a small amount of food and water –watch to make sure that they don't try to drink or eat copious amounts too quickly, this can cause vomiting.

### **Routine Cleaning- no extractions:**

- Even if your pet did not have extractions their mouth may be sore for the next few days. Feed your pet a small amount of soft food (about half the normal amount) after getting home. You can soak your pet's kibble in warm water or broth until it is soft and mashable if you do not have any canned, soft food. Tomorrow you can feed a normal amount of food and water, although it can be normal for pets to be nauseous 1 day post-op as well. Please continue to attempt to offer food if your pet does not want to eat immediately after offering.

### **Cleanings with extractions:**

- If your pet has had extractions their mouth may be sore for the next 3-7 days depending on the extent of work that has been performed. Please give the pain medication that has been prescribed to your pet. Some pets require antibiotics. If your pet is prescribed antibiotics, give them until gone and with food. Medication given on an empty stomach can cause GI upset.
- Your pet has dissolvable sutures in its mouth. They will dissolve in 2-4 weeks. Please feed your pet soft food for the next 2 weeks. You can soak your pet's kibble in warm water or broth until it is soft and mashable if you do not have any canned, soft food. DO NOT let your pet chew on anything (toys, food, treats) as this can compromise sutures and prevent the site from healing properly.
- Do not be surprised if you notice a small amount of bleeding from your cat or dog's mouth and/or nose. Some bleeding can occur depending on the extent of extractions that were needed. A small amount of blood from the nose, sneezing blood, and even sneezing out blood clots can be normal. There may be some blood in drool or a small amount of blood in the water bowl as well. If the amount of blood you are seeing appears concerning please contact a veterinarian.

Now is a good time to start thinking about PREVENTION of periodontal disease. If your companion already has periodontal disease, teeth cleaning was an important part of slowing the progression of the disease. There are other at-home steps you can take to prevent or delay the progression of periodontal disease. Visit the Veterinary Oral Health Council at [yohc.org](http://yohc.org) to see products intended to help prevent plaque and tartar on the teeth of cats and dogs.

Please note, Dr. Kelly's Surgical Unit is not responsible for any costs associated with post-op veterinary care. Dr. Kelly's Surgical Unit will not reimburse you for any post-op veterinary care resulting from not following these instructions. Please call Dr. Kelly's Surgical Unit if you have concerns. We will try to return your call in a timely manner, but we do not offer 24-hour emergency veterinary services. If you need emergency care, please consult your private Vet or seek care at an Emergency Animal Hospital. Here is a list of hospitals that may be able to give you assistance:

### **Tucson Emergency Hospitals:**

- VCA Valley @ 4984 E 22nd St, Tucson, AZ 85711, (520) 748-0331
- Southern Arizona Veterinary Central @ 141 E Fort Lowell Rd, Tucson, AZ 85705, (520) 888-3177
- Southern Arizona Veterinary East @ 7474 E. Broadway Blvd. Tucson, AZ 85710, (520) 888-3177
- Pima Pet Clinic @ 4832 E Speedway Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85712, (520) 327-5624
- VSCOT @ 4909 N La Cañada Dr, Tucson, AZ 85704, (520) 795-9955