

Dental Post-Operative Instructions



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Your pet has had a general anesthetic to facilitate the dental cleaning. The dental cleaning includes ultrasonic scaling and polishing of the teeth, checking for and cleaning any pockets below the gums, and extractions only if necessary.

It is very important that you monitor your pet's attitude and appetite during the postoperative period. Things that you should watch for are included in the list below. A decreased appetite may be normal for 1-2 days, however if any of the following symptoms occur, please contact your veterinarian.

- Loss of appetite or refusal to drink water for more than 24 hours.
- Depression or weakness.
- Elevated or subnormal temperature.
- Diarrhea or vomiting.

Diet:

Some pets will have tender gums for 1-3 days after cleaning and may need softer food for a few days, particularly if extractions were necessary. Feed soft food for the next 7-10 days to allow the mouth to heal. You may soften food with warm water or low sodium chicken broth.

Exercise Restrictions:

Your pet will probably be sluggish after anesthesia and depending on age and the number or difficulty of any extractions, may be slightly sluggish for 1-2 days.

Incision Care: *****only relevant if extractions were performed*****

If there were any extractions, there may be absorbable sutures in the gums. You should check these sutures daily to be sure there are no food particles stuck to the incision that may need to be gently wiped away with a cotton-tipped swab.

Medications:

Give as directed upon discharge.

Recommendations/Monitoring:

- Your pet was intubated with an endotracheal tube during their procedure they may experience some coughing or sneezing after their dental procedure. An endotracheal tube can cause some irritation but should resolve in 2-4 days after the procedure.
- Monitor your pet for no interest in food >24 hours, vomiting despite medication, diarrhea >3 episodes or if blood is present, lethargy, abdominal pain, or any new symptoms/concerns and have your pet evaluated with further concerns.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to help in the care of your pet. Please call if you have any questions or concerns.

For after hours emergencies, contact the East Texas Pet Emergency Clinic at (903) 759-8545. They are located at 812 Gilmer Rd., Longview, TX 75604.