

# Dental cleaning and aftercare

Here's what you need to know about your pet's dental cleaning, plus how to care for them at home.

## What happens?

After a thorough pre-anesthetic exam to confirm your pet is ready, they're safely anesthetized and constantly monitored to keep them safe and comfortable. They'll receive:

- Oral and periodontal (gum) exam
- Tartar removal (above and below the gum line)
- Ultrasonic cleaning
- Tooth polishing
- Disinfectant rinse



They may also receive dental radiographs (X-rays) or dental extractions.

## Will my pet be in pain?

Your pet received pain medication throughout their dental cleaning, with additional oral nerve blocks if extractions were required. Your veterinary team may also prescribe additional pain relievers to keep your pet comfortable at home.

- ▶ If your pet seems to be in pain, call us or reach out to Vet Chat™ immediately.

## What can I expect and do tonight?

Most pets are able to drink small amounts of water and eat a small meal after their dental cleaning. They may be drowsy and sleep more than usual this evening.

You may notice a slight cough, which is an aftereffect of the breathing tube used to administer oxygen and anesthesia during their procedure. Blood-tinged saliva or drooling are normal after extractions.

- ▶ If bleeding seems excessive, your pet has any trouble breathing, or you are concerned, call us or reach out to Vet Chat™ immediately.

## Are there any special instructions?

### 1 Reduce their food

Pets can be nauseated after anesthesia, and may vomit if they eat or drink large amounts too quickly. Feed your pet ¼ to ½ their normal meal tonight, and return to normal feeding tomorrow unless otherwise instructed by your veterinarian.

If extractions were performed, your veterinarian may recommend a special diet for several days.

### 2 Keep an eye on them

If you spot any of these signs, call us or reach out through Vet Chat™ immediately:

- Inability to stand or walk
- Excessive bleeding from the mouth
- Obvious pain or discomfort
- Decreased appetite for more than 48 hours



## Dental cleaning tips

- Monitor your pet carefully while they recover from anesthesia
- Follow all instructions for aftercare, and contact your veterinary team with any questions or concerns
- ▶ Ask your veterinary team how you can start a regular home dental care routine for your pet.

