

Dental Release Instructions

Today your pet received a thorough dental exam, ultrasonic scaling and polishing, under general anesthesia. Some pets can be nauseous after anesthesia, so be sure to reintroduce food and water slowly. Once your pet has settled down after returning home, offer a small amount of water. Do not allow free access to water, as sometimes this will make them vomit. An hour or so later, if no vomiting has occurred, you may offer a small amount of food (about half the usual amount you feed). If all is well overnight, you may return to the usual amount you feed the next morning.

If there was a heavy buildup of tartar along the gum line, you may notice a little bleeding and possibly some sensitivity. If there were any extractions, there will likely be some noticeable blood oozing, this is normal. Adding a few ice cubes to your pet's water bowl can help slow this down. If you normally feed your pet dry food, soaking it in warm water before feeding will make your pet more comfortable.

If you have other pets in the household, keep them separate (unless you are in the room to monitor them) for 24 hours. Animals can sense when something is "different", whether it's the smell of being in the hospital, or they just aren't acting quite right. This can sometimes lead to fighting, even if they are normally best friends. Be safe, and just keep them apart.

Now that your pet's teeth are freshly cleaned, this would be a good time to start (or continue!) at home dental care. If your pet doesn't mind having his mouth handled, you can use a soft toothbrush or a washcloth and gently rub his teeth, near the gum line. (This is where tartar will start forming again.) You can purchase pet-friendly toothpaste, or use a small amount of baking soda. (Please don't use human toothpaste—it's not meant to be swallowed.) Another option is the TrisDent Dental Wipe, which contains chlorhexidine to minimize tartar formation. An option that your dog will probably prefer (and be easier for you!) are the dental chews. These products contain ingredients to help stop the formation of plaque, the precursor of the tartar that builds up on the teeth. OraVet Chews, ProPlan Dental Chewz and Enzy-Chews all contain ingredients to help stop the formation of plaque.

Please contact us if any of the following occur:

- A. Vomiting after 24 hours.
- B. Diarrhea.
- C. Refusal to eat after 48 hours.
- D. Severe pain.

Thank you for trusting us with the care of your pet!

X _____

Date _____