

Dental Discharge Instructions

Your pet was placed under general anesthetic, and may be groggy or quiet for the next 1-2 days. Please call us if this persists past 2 days. Please provide a quiet, comfortable place to rest for the remainder of the day.

ET TUBE

Your pet had an endotracheal (breathing or ET) tube placed for the procedure. You may notice some gurgling, coughing, or a hoarse voice for the next couple of days. If these signs persist, or if there is any trouble breathing, please contact the clinic as soon as possible.

DIET

Because your pet was placed under anesthetic, there may be some nausea or stomach upset. Please only feed a small meal tonight, and normal feeding can resume tomorrow. One episode of vomiting or diarrhea is ok, however if it continues please contact the clinic. If your pet had any extractions, please feed a canned diet or softened food for the next 10-14 days.

EXTRACTIONS

If your pet's dental disease is severe, they may have teeth extracted. If this occurs, your pet's mouth may be sore for the next few days, and there will be stitches in the gums. Please check these daily. The stitches will dissolve on their own. A little bleeding may occur over the next 24 hours, but please call the clinic if it is persistent or seems excessive.

PAIN

Your pet had pain medication during surgery, and is going home with additional medication for the next few days. However, if you see any signs of pain despite this medication (being overly quiet or tense, reduced activity, licking, guarding or shying away from touching the incision, not eating), please call the clinic. We want them to be comfortable during recovery! Please do not medicate your pet with any over the counter medications, such as Advil, Tylenol, or Aspirin, as these can be toxic and do more harm than good.

LONG TERM HOME CARE

Now that your pet's teeth are nice and clean, it's up to you to keep them that way. Plaque, tartar, and dental disease start accumulating again within hours of tooth cleaning! Once your pet has recovered (and the mouth has healed if any extractions were performed), it's time to start regular home care.

1. *Tooth Brushing* – Daily brushing with a soft-bristled baby tooth brush or wiping the teeth with a gauze or washcloth removes plaque so that it doesn't harden into tartar.
 - a. Gently lift or pull the lip away from the teeth. The mouth can stay closed.
 - b. Moisten the brush with water or pet toothpaste
 - c. Hold the brush at a 45-degree angle pointing toward the gums, and brush in a back-and-forth motion.
 - d. For pets that don't like brushing, Vetradent Oral Wipes or a dental kibble are another alternative for every day care.
2. *Oral Care Kibble* – Hill's t/d, Science Diet Oral Care, and Royal Canin Dental are all kibbles that act like a toothbrush. Use as an every day diet or as daily treats.
3. *Dental Chews* – Tartar Shield Rawhide Chews, Virbac CET VeggieDent Chews, Greenies, Purina/Alpo Dental Chewz, or Milk-Bone Brushing Chews. Look for the logo "VOHC" which means the product has been tested and proven to be effective.
4. *Water/Food Additives* – Healthymouth, Tartar Shield Dental Tabs, Vetradent Water Additive or Spray
5. No bones, hooves, antlers, nylon bones, bully sticks, or ice cubes. These items are so hard dogs can break their teeth on them.

Rule of thumb: If you don't want to hit your knee with it, the item is too hard.

FOLLOW UP

We would like to see your pet back for a surgical recheck in 10-14 days. There is no charge for this visit so long as there are no new concerns.

If you have any concerns please call the Hillside Veterinary Clinic at (905) 895-6065. After hours, please call the 404 Emergency Clinic at (905) 953-1933.