



JONESVILLE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

## Post Dental Cleaning Instructions For Your Pet

Your pet has received general anesthesia for the dental cleaning today. For this reason, you should expect your pet to be less active than normal for the next 12-24 hours. If pain medications or antibiotics were prescribed, please administer them as directed. Although it is usually best to give medication with food whenever possible, the first dose can be administered 1-1 ½ hours after arriving home, even if your pet has not eaten.

Although your pet may not be interested in eating, you may offer food and water 1-2 hours after bringing your pet home. Since anesthesia can sometimes cause nausea, be sure to offer ½ of a normal meal tonight. If your pet is still hungry, you may offer another ½ of a meal two hours later. Do not be concerned if your pet will not eat or drink tonight as this is common behavior after a dental procedure. However, if your pet has not had any food or water within 24 hours, please call.

If dental extractions were performed, there may be some mouth tenderness for the next 2-3 days. Additionally, you may notice a small amount of blood tinged saliva over the next 24 hours. Some extractions are surgical extractions, which require the use of stitches. If stitches are present, they will dissolve over the next several weeks and do not require removal. Some extractions will require a courtesy follow-up visit to ensure proper healing. If instructed to do so, please schedule an appointment in 7-10 days.

To allow the extraction sites to heal, you **MUST** feed only soft food for 7-10 days. This can be accomplished by either soaking dry food in water for 20-30 minutes before feeding or offering a canned formula that will not cause gastrointestinal upset. You may purchase this food at the hospital before taking your pet home. Also, chewing on bones or hard treats is not permitted for 10 days.

In order to improve the health of teeth and gums between dental cleanings, we recommend performing routine dental care at home. Keeping teeth and gums healthy can prevent heart and kidney disease as well as tooth root abscesses, periodontal disease, and an unpleasant mouth odor from bad breath. Brushing your pet's teeth with appropriate fluoride-free toothpaste designed for your pet, offering safe dental chews, or feeding a prescription dental diet are all good alternatives for home dental care.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.