

Emery & Carbon Animal Health

Treatment Plan for Dental Prophylaxis and Treatments

Anesthesia Safety

- Intravenous Fluids: Ensures that blood pressure stays up to support oxygen and nutritional needs of vital organs during anesthesia
- Pre-Anesthetic Blood Work: Checks vital organ functions, helps to determine safest anesthesia protocol and possible risks before anesthesia is given. We also do comprehensive blood work panels for senior pets and those who have chronic diseases or other concerns.

Diagnostics

- X-Rays: Taking pictures of the roots of all the teeth allows us to detect and treat all dental disease. Over 25% of pets have some type of dental problems that would go undetected without x-rays. Without x-rays we may end up only making the teeth look good, but not treat the underlying diseases. The whole purpose of doing this is to prevent both dental and systemic diseases that will decrease the life expectancy of our pets.

Treatment

- Oral Surgery: This is to remove diseased tissue, bone and teeth. We do not just pull loose teeth. We ensure that all infected teeth and bone are removed. We know that we are able to keep your pet disease free with minimal complications and we are protecting vital organs from diseases that originate from an infected mouth. We then suture the gum closed for quick healing and minimal chance of contamination as your pet eats.

Comfort & Safety

- Pain control: Studies have proven that pain control decreases stress. Stress leads to slower healing times and increases chances of complications. We hate to see your pet(s) in any unnecessary pain which is why we give pain medication prior to their dental treatment to help reduce the amount of anesthesia needed during the procedure as well.
- Antibiotics: Are needed to ensure that no remaining bacteria can cause or continue to cause disease in the treated areas. Antibiotics also help prevent possible complications and shorten healing time.

General Preventative Dental Package

- Teeth cleaning and Polishing Package: Removes tartar and plaque from the teeth and under the gum line that will lead to dental disease. When this is done it prevents periodontitis (infection of teeth and underlying structures), and all of the systemic problems that lead to a shorter life expectancy. Our package includes the following.
 - Pre-Anesthetic exam: Veterinarian checks vital signs and hydration to detect possible problems that may make anesthesia more risky.
 - Complete Blood Count: A blood test that insures that there are no problems like an underlying infection or anemia that may make anesthesia more risky.
 - Intravenous catheter: We do everything possible to be prepared for the unexpected. That is one of the main reasons for an IV catheter. In the unlikely event that we needed to give some emergency drugs, it can be done quickly and efficiently (this is kind of like having flotation devices in an airplane). We also use the catheter to administer IV fluids.
 - Intravenous fluids : see Anesthesia Safety
 - Pre-Anesthetic sedatives/medications: We carefully choose the proper medications based on age, physical exam, and blood work for your pet. Pre-medications allow us to keep stress levels low and decrease amount of anesthetics needed during the procedure.
 - Pre-emptive Pain Control: It is proven fact that when we get pain control started before the pain occurs we can control it better and we can decrease the amount of anesthetic drugs that are needed as well as keeping pain and inflammation under control afterwards.
 - Antibiotics: We give antibiotics to protect against bacteria causing infection because they may enter the bloodstream while doing dental procedures.
 - Anesthesia: This is carefully administered using an induction agent and then an inhalant anesthetic. We can keep your pet at the lightest possible level of anesthesia, just barely more than most sedatives, and can quickly adjust as needed. We place an endotracheal tube to protect the airway and lungs from fluids used during teeth cleaning and to give oxygen and inhalant anesthetic. This increases safety and protects your pet.
 - Vitals Monitoring: We have great equipment to monitor your pet during anesthesia. We can track blood pressure, heart rate, oxygen concentration, temperature, ventilation rate, CO2 level. Plus we have a trained technician to monitor vitals continually during the entire procedure and while recovering from anesthesia.

Important Message

We really want what is best for your pet(s). Our goal is to help you to help your pets live a long, healthy, and happy life. Our choices for the way we handle your pet is based on scientific research and what is considered to be best practices by the American Veterinary Dental College (a group of veterinarians who specialize and research dentistry in animals). We often hear about client concerns over costs to perform these procedures. These are legitimate concerns, unfortunately we often have clients that due to misunderstanding of the importance of what we do in hopes to save money go elsewhere and assume that are getting the same thing. They don't realize that they may be getting less (doing fewer services) and paying more for the ones they are getting. If you feel you cannot do everything that would be best, we are more than happy to do what you can do. Please talk to us about any concerns you may have about any health care for your pet(s) or costs of performing these procedures, the need for them, and what goes into it. A great reference for dental questions is: <http://www.avdc.org>