

Professional Dental Cleaning

East Suburban Animal Hospital

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All pets will benefit from a professional dental cleaning at some point in their lives. Some pets will require them annually while others may need them more or less frequently depending on breed, size, diet, health status, and other factors. Dental health is vitally important to your pets overall well-being. Dental disease can lead to pain, infection, Heart Disease, and/or Kidney Disease. Your Vet will make recommendations on dental care based on the grade of dental disease your pet is exhibiting. Fortunately, our team is educated and experienced in providing these services to keep your pet healthy.

Many clients ask why a cleaning at our office is so much more expensive than our human dentist or the cleaning their groomer performs. There are several reasons why the cost is different. The procedure for a professional cleaning typically takes between 2-3 hours from start to finish and after the procedure, your pet will be monitored by our educated, compassionate, and skilled team.

Procedures for a Professional Dental Cleaning

Our pets must be anesthetized in order to properly clean the teeth. Much of a pet's dental disease lies below the gum line and cannot be properly diagnosed until they are anesthetized.

Since we are using anesthesia, we treat a dentistry as we would any other major medical procedure. We always place an IV catheter when anesthesia is used. We do this for several reasons (please note, we must shave an area of the leg to place the IV Catheter and tape it in place):

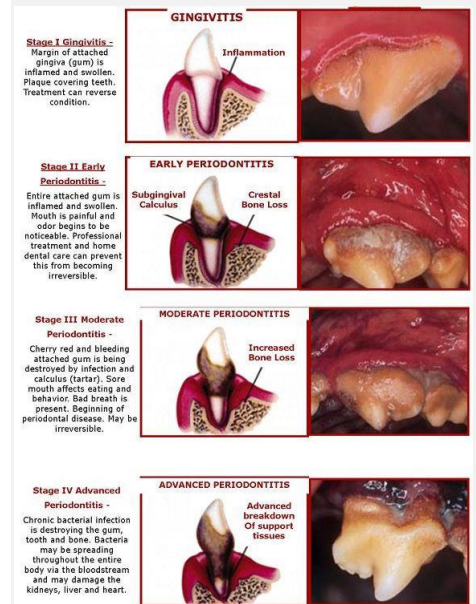
- To administer fluids during, and/or after the procedure.
- To administer the injectable anesthetic
- In case any emergency arises and emergency drugs are required we have immediate access to a vein. While this is a rare occurrence, we feel it's best to be prepared for any situation.



Tools to prevent tartar build up

- Hill's TD Dental Diet
- CET Pet Toothpaste
- CET Chlorhexidine Rawhide Chews
- Oravet Gel

Dental Grades



Medications are used to pre-medicate your pet for his/her procedure. These medications are used to sedate them, ease their nerves, as well as provides pain relief. Individual meds are chosen specifically for your pet based on their current health status, pain level, weight, breed, anxiety levels, current medications, and pre-existing conditions.

Here are the steps taken during our professional Dental Cleaning:

- First, an injectable anesthetic is given, your pet is intubated and a gas anesthetic and oxygen are administered.
- Once anesthetized, your pet will be monitored during the entire procedure with human grade monitoring equipment, monitoring his/her heart rate, blood oxygen levels, and temperature.
- Your pet will be placed on a warm water warming pad which circulates warm water to provide constant, safe heat and help maintain your pet's temperature.
- Fluids will be administered during the procedure which in addition to hydrating your pet, will also help to maintain blood pressure.
- Precautions are then taken in preparing your pet's mouth and throat to prevent any water or debris from entering his trachea.
- We will take Before and After Pictures to include in your discharge paperwork.
- The Doctor will do a complete oral exam, measuring the depth of pockets around each tooth while also checking the mobility of each tooth and inspecting for any cracks or fractures. This will help in determining if teeth need to be extracted. We will never recommend extractions unless we feel it will cause your pet pain or further health issues, like infection which can lead to Heart and/or Kidney Disease.
- Depending on the oral exam, the Doctor may recommend dental x-rays to further diagnose issues. This is helpful in knowing what the condition the tooth roots and jaw bone are in.
- Once the Doctor has assessed which teeth, if any, need to be extracted, they will remove the unhealthy teeth. Some teeth are easily extracted, while others, such a molars could require surgical removal.
- Once the extractions are completed your Licensed Vet Tech, who has been specially trained in dental cleanings, will remove the plaque and tartar from the teeth by hand scaling and the use of an ultrasonic scaler to further clean the teeth. They will also use a hand scaler subgingivally (below the gum line).
- All teeth are then polished with a prophy paste to buff and smooth out any imperfections or defects on the tooth surface (enamel).
- Once teeth are polished, we will apply an application of Oravet, a gel material that slows the buildup of plaque for two weeks.
- Pain medications and/or antibiotics will be administered if necessary.
- Your pet will be taken to a recovery cage where they will be closely monitored by a technician until they are fully awake. Once they are alert and able to lift their head and swallow, we remove their endotracheal tube. We will assess their Temperature, Pulse, and Respiration throughout the duration of their stay with us.
- We will either call or text you with an update once your pet is awake. Please feel free to call and check in on them at any time.
- We typically will instruct clients to call us, if you haven't heard from us by 4:30, to schedule a discharge appointment. All surgical patients are discharged in the back of the building (Old 22 side). Simply go up the ramp, ring the door bell, and go inside. Our inpatient technician will go over all post op instructions, medications to go home, answer any questions you may have, and take payment. We have a Doctor on call should you encounter any problems after we close. While this is rare, we like to offer the peace of mind of knowing we are available for phone advice should you need it.