

Dental Pre-Surgery Information

Patient Name

Date Of surgery.....

Why does my pet need a dental?

- ✓ One of the best things a pet owner can do to ensure the overall health of their pet is to do routinely the teeth, gums and oral cavity.



A healthy mouth

An unhealthy mouth

An animal with an unhealthy oral cavity may run the risk of bacteria and harmful toxins entering the blood stream, which can lead to a large number of health problems including heart and kidney damage and joint problems.

Periodontal Disease may also develop. This affects the tissues surrounding the tooth. It is the most common disease affecting our pets over two years of age. It is caused by bacteria in the plaque that accumulates on the surface of the teeth. This leads to inflammation and recession of the gum thus exposing more of the root of the tooth. This process can be very painful for your pet.

What does a dental involve?

Dental surgery is performed under a General Anaesthetic.

1. Once anaesthetised the teeth are graded from 0-4, With 1 being slightly unhealthy and Grade 4 being very diseased. When teeth become grade 4 they will most likely need to be extracted.
 2. Any teeth that need to be removed are taken out, and the remaining teeth are scaled, which will remove all the tartar and other debris.
 3. Once cleaned the teeth are then polished, to help smooth the tooth enamel to prevent attachment of fresh plaque.
- ✓ In most cases the veterinarian may prescribe your pet antibiotics to take leading up to and after the procedure. This helps reduce the risk of bacteria entering the bloodstream, by cutting down the amount of bacteria in the mouth during the treatment.

Post operative care information

- ✓ After the procedure your pet may need to go on a soft food diet for a few days, before trying the following steps.

After your dog's teeth have been surgically cleaned, we recommend a few steps, which will help to reduce the process of plaque and tartar build up in the future.

1. Feed your pets **raw** bones, and encourage them to play with chew toys.
2. Brush the teeth at least twice a week, using a soft or finger toothbrush and pet dental paste. (Do not use human toothpaste as it 'foams' and our pets are unable to spit this out also swallowing fluoride can make them sick.) Please ask for more information in getting your pet used to this.
3. Feed your pet a specially formulated diet to reduce tartar buildup. For example: Hills prescription diet T/d, or Hills oral care.
4. Use a water additive such as "aquadent", which is simply added to your pet's drinking water and will help reduce the bacteria count in the mouth, and freshen the breath.
5. And finally, book your pet in for a dental every 6-12 months or at the first sign of tartar buildup.

Admission

Admission is between the hours of 7.30am and 9.30am.

In the admission you will meet the veterinary nurse that will be looking after your pet throughout the entire surgical procedure. We shall ask you, or an authorised adult, for written permission to perform the operation on your pet. We make time to guide you through the consent form so that we can explain any terms that you do not understand or are worried about. Please allow 5-10 minutes for this.

The nurse looking after your pet will call you when the procedure is completed and your pet has made a smooth and stable recovery.

- **Fasting:** Please fast your pet of food only for 12 hours prior to the surgery. Offer plenty of water overnight and in the morning.

Pre Anaesthetic Blood testing

Upon arrival your pet will receive a full health check to determine if there are any pre-existing problems, which may have an influence on some of the drugs and materials we use. Some problems, however, cannot be determined by physical examination alone and we have the facility to perform a pre anaesthetic blood screen to determine whether there is likely to be an increased risk.

- We have a modern blood analyser for this purpose and results are available within 20 minutes, allowing any adjustments to be made in the anaesthetic protocol. Please ask for further details.

Fluid Therapy

As is routine in human hospitals, we provide intravenous fluid support (a drip) for our patients. We believe this benefits all pets and allows them to make a stronger and speedier recovery. It also keeps a vein open for smooth injections of anaesthetic agents and medications, and helps maintain stable blood pressure throughout the anaesthesia

Pain Relief

All pets undergoing surgery at Hamilton Veterinary Clinic have an analgesic (painkiller) as part of their premedication, so that they are more comfortable and therefore less frightened when they wake up.

- ✓ You may also receive a pain relief tablet for the night of the procedure to ensure they have a comfortable nights rest, and another tablet for the following morning (depending on the nature of the procedure). This will ensure your pet is comfortable and pain free through their recovery process.

Discharge

You will receive a folder with aftercare information, any medication needed, results of blood test, depending on the services provided. The discharging nurse will take you through the information and ensure you are happy, well informed and comfortable with the after care of your pet.

We know that even the most minor operation may cause considerable anxiety. We shall keep you involved all the way and we assure you that we shall give your pet individual and caring attention. We look forward to seeing you and your pet.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us on 49696852 or visit us at www.hamiltonvet.com.au

References: www.thepetcenter.com