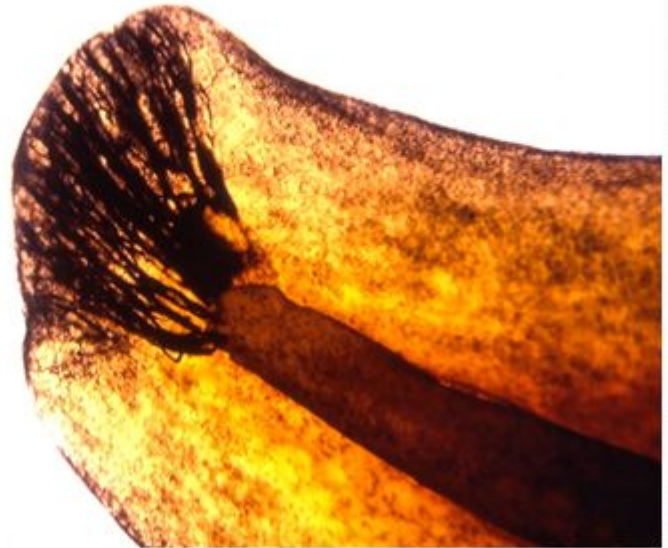


# Animal Dental Clinic of PGH: Dental Discharge Instructions for Root Canals

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# Client Discharge Instructions: Post Anesthesia Grogginess

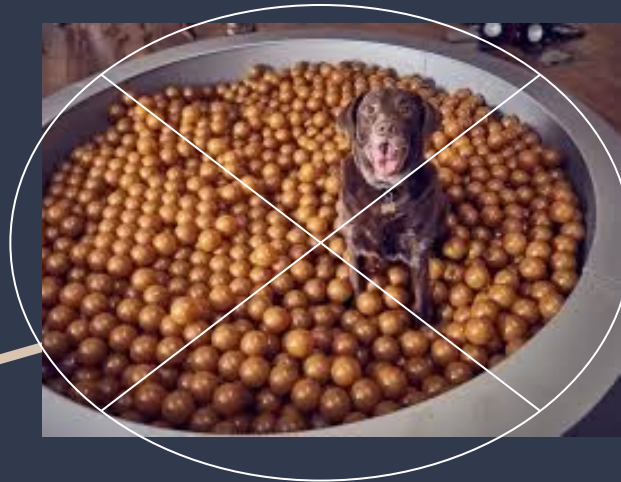


Your pet may be groggy from the anesthesia and pain medication used today. These medications may also make your pet whine/vocalize, and have eye changes (dilated pupils, droopy eyelids). There may also be “dysphoria” or confusion related to the drugs and not from pain. Excellent pain protocols with nerve blocks are part of the dental procedure performed today to help control discomfort. We also have sent home pain medication in a continued effort to keep your pet comfortable during the healing process.

Please watch your pet closely around stairs, high furniture, and other animals in the household when returning home the evening after dental surgery. Most animals return to their normal level of activity by the next day.

Call the hospital if your pet still seems drowsy after 24 hours

# Client Discharge Instructions: Feeding post Anesthesia

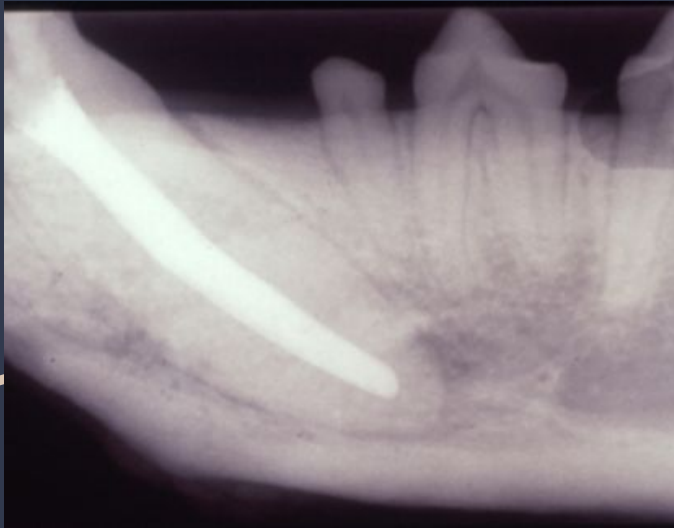


As part of the general anesthesia used for the dental procedure today, an endotracheal tube was placed which delivered oxygen and anesthetic gas to the lungs. The tube was removed from your pet after recovery from anesthesia, but there can be some residual irritation to the trachea (windpipe) that may cause a dry cough for 1-3 days after surgery. Please call the clinic if your pet has an excessive, wet (productive – coughing up phlegm), or persistent cough after anesthesia.

After returning home with your pet the evening after anesthesia and dental procedure, offer small amounts of water and food (1/4 – 1/2 the usual amount) every 30 minutes to 1 hour. These “mini-meals” help minimize the risk of your pet eating or drinking too much too fast, which could lead to vomiting and gastrointestinal upset. You can return to feeding normal amounts of softened food and water the following day.

Feed a soft diet for 1-2 days in case the area around the tooth is sensitive. **Hard chew toys (antlers, nylabones, pig hooves, ice, etc.) should be avoided at all times as these items can fracture teeth.**

# Client Discharge Instructions: Rechecking the Tooth



Your pet should be rechecked in 1 year with a dental radiograph. Please call to set up an appointment. If the root canal looks good, future visits are necessary only if you notice a problem such as not eating, dropping food, missing composite, swelling, etc.

The access sites in the tooth through which the root canal was performed were filled with a composite material that is very strong and closely matches the color of the tooth. On a daily basis, usually at the time of tooth brushing, check to make sure the composite is in place. If it were gone, you would notice a hole in the tooth with a pink/orange material down below. Please call if you notice any problems with this material or have any questions about the appearance of the tooth.

# Client Discharge Instructions: Home Dental Care



A home dental care program to remove plaque and calculus (tartar) build-up is recommended to help prevent or decrease the severity of future dental disease.

Brushing with a toothbrush and toothpaste made for animals daily is the most effective method of keeping teeth clean (just like people). This can be difficult in many pets, and there are many other products available to help with an animals' oral health.

Oral rinses and Gels, dental diets and treats, and possibly water additives are also options.

It is essential to include some form of dental home care to help keep your pet's mouth as healthy as possible.

For patients who have had root canal therapy, during home care is the perfect time to make sure the composite is in place and there has been no further damage to the tooth.