

Animal Dental Clinic of PGH: Discharge Instructions for Dental Extractions

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Client Instructions post dental procedure

Grogginess post anesthesia

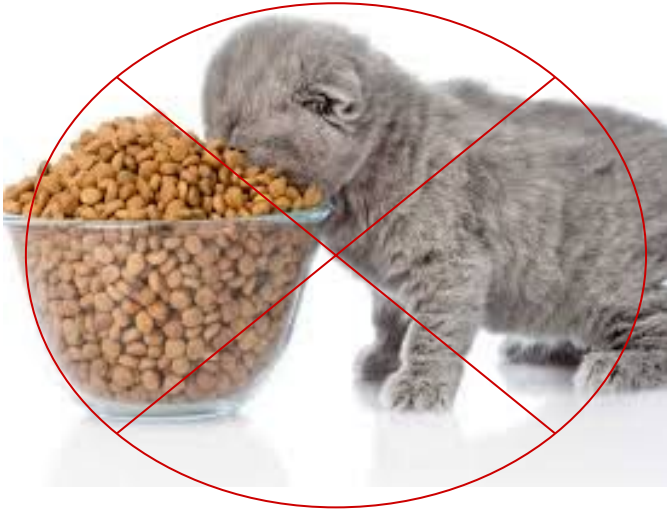


Your pet may be groggy from the anesthesia and pain medication used today. These medications may also make your pet whine/vocalize, and have eye changes (dilated pupils, droopy eyelids). There may also be “dysphoria” or confusion related to the drugs and not from pain. Excellent pain protocols with nerve 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.

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Possible irritation from ET tube & Feeding Instructions for your pet



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.

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Possible blood-tinge drool & softening food and avoiding hard chewing with sutures in the mouth



Please observe your pet to see if there is any swelling, excessive drooling, or bleeding around the mouth. A small amount of blood-tinged saliva is normal after oral surgery for a day or so. If needed, a cool compress can be used to help with mild swelling or bleeding. Gently apply a cold towel or ice cubes wrapped in a washcloth to the area for 5-10 minutes, 3 or more times a day as necessary.

The sutures used to close the extraction sites will dissolve in 3-4 weeks. Feed a soft diet (either canned food or wet the dry food with warm water to soften) for 4 weeks to allow the sutures to remain in place long enough for the sites to heal. Remove all chew toys or hard objects during this time.

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Dental Recheck Appointment



Your pet should be rechecked in 4 weeks to insure proper healing. This examination can either be performed at our clinic or with your family vet.

If the extraction sites are healed, your pet can resume eating dry food and hard/crunchy treats.

Very hard toys (antlers, very hard nylabones, pig hooves, etc.) should be avoided at all times as these items can fracture teeth.

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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 animal's oral health.

Oral rinses and Gels, dental diets and treats, and possibly food and 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.

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Medications



It is very important to give your pet the medications prescribed after the dental procedure to prevent pain and infection.

Some types of pain medication can cause ongoing grogginess.

Antibiotics can sometimes cause gastrointestinal upset with diarrhea or loose stool and vomiting.

If any problems are noted, contact the clinic and tell us what is happening with your pet.
