

Pre-Dental Screening

Physical Exam

Because general anesthesia is necessary while cleaning your pet's teeth, the process begins with a physical examination. Your pet's teeth are examined at this time and given a grade. Your pet's teeth are graded on a scale of 1 to 4 to indicate the severity of dental disease present (Grade 4 being the most severe). Also during the exam we look for any broken or diseased teeth that may need special attention during the dental procedure.

Your pet's general health must be evaluated before anesthesia is administered to ensure that he/she is not put at risk. This is the reason why so many tests are performed prior to your pet having his/her teeth cleaned. A veterinarian will do a complete head to tail examination of your pet. This includes listening to your pet's heart to make sure that no abnormalities are present.

Laboratory Testing and Electrocardiogram (EKG)

Pre-anesthetic bloodwork is done in order to screen for underlying problems with your pet's liver or kidneys that could potentially put your pet at risk. It is important that these organs are functioning properly, because many of the drugs that are given to put a patient under anesthesia, as well as pain medications, are processed by the liver and kidneys.

After your pet's bloodwork is done we will perform an EKG (electrocardiogram). An EKG measures electrical conductivity of the heart. By reviewing an EKG the veterinarian is able to decide whether your pet's heart is healthy enough to undergo anesthesia.

Once your pet's veterinarian determines that your pet is healthy enough to undergo anesthesia, we can begin the dental procedure.

Preparing for the Dental

Your pet is first given a pre-medication for relaxation and pain control. Then an intravenous catheter is placed. This allows access for the administration of IV medications as well as fluids during the procedure. Intravenous fluids provide support for the circulatory system during anesthesia as well as keep your pet hydrated.

An endotracheal tube is placed in your pet's airway to allow for the administration of oxygen and anesthetic gases. It also serves to keep your pet's airways clear of debris and water during the dental procedure.

Once your pet is anesthetized he/she is monitored closely with a variety of monitoring equipment. Our monitoring equipment includes electrocardiogram (EKG), pulse oximeter, blood pressure monitor and thermometer probe. This equipment helps us pay close attention to your pet's heart rate and rhythm, blood oxygen levels, respiration, blood pressure, and body

temperature.