

What is Involved in a Professional Dental Cleaning?

Pets often have plaque and tartar- the brown layer that builds up on the surface of the teeth. Once we see evidence of this, it is common to find both gum and periodontal disease that requires treatment. This care must be delivered under general anesthesia so the veterinarian can best remove plaque and tartar from above and below the gum line. Anesthesia allows us to conduct necessary tests and treatment (probing, x-rays, extractions) in a safe, thorough and pain free manner. By treating dental disease and restoring your pet's oral health, we can relieve pain and help to increase their longevity. Steps of professional teeth cleaning include:

Examination

- Thorough examination of the oral cavity: mouth, gums, teeth, tongue and throat
- Examination is done both at the beginning and end of the procedure

X-Ray

- X-rays, as necessary, allow us to see what is hidden beneath the teeth and gums. We do not want to overlook diseased teeth that may lead to pain, infection and the need for unexpected emergency treatment.

Scaling (above the gum line)

- Using an ultrasonic hand piece lightly applied to the tooth surface, a water spray is used to both clean and keeps the teeth cool, and a constant motion is used with the sound waves to remove tartar and plaque.

Scaling (below the gum line)

- Tartar, coated with bacteria, can contribute to periodontal disease if left on the roots surface. We remove this to insure an adequate cleaning.
- Special, thin tipped instruments, created specifically to clean root surfaces are gently used to scale the surfaces below the gum line.
- After the cleaning is completed- both air and water are used to flush any debris from the mouth and gums.

Tooth Polishing

- Polishing removes minor surface defects and restores a smooth surface that is resistant to build up.
- If indicated, medicated gum treatments or oral washes may be used.

Professional Teeth Cleaning

Examination

X-Ray

Scaling (above the gum line)

Scaling (below the gum line)

Tooth Polishing

Detailed Summary of Dog and Cat Dental Visits

Our goal is to preserve teeth, extract only those that are hopelessly diseased or present a threat to your pet's health and comfort. During the oral examination and dental prophylaxis it is common to identify additional, unanticipated disease associated with your pet's teeth and oral cavity. Many conditions can and should be treated at the time of discovery; others may require follow-up dental appointments, anesthesia and surgery. Once your pet's mouth is restored to a healthy condition, we will advise you how to perform preventative home dental care.

Before the procedure

- ✓ Pre-surgical examination
- ✓ Treatment plan and associated cost discussion with owner
- ✓ Pre-anesthetic assessment

Your pet will receive the highest level of care and support available during their dental cleaning at Frontier Village Veterinary Clinic. The list below insures the best level of safety and treatment. We do not offer lower cost dentistry services achieved by cutting corners in safety, comfort or quality of care.

For the procedure

- Pre-anesthetic sedation
- Pre-anesthetic pain medication
- IV catheterization
- IV fluids
- Precision IV infusion pump
- Anesthesia- inhalant gas
- Electronic monitoring of vital signs
 - Electrocardiogram, Pulse Oximetry, Blood pressure
- Skilled nursing monitor of vital signs
- Temperature therapy: circulating warm water blanket to insulate and maintain body temp. and comfort
- Oral examination- while under anesthesia
- Oral charting of each tooth
- Intra- oral digital radiographs & interpretation
- Teeth ultrasonic cleaning
- Teeth polishing
- Chlorhexidine oral rinse
- Fluoride treatment, as needed Antibiotic gel for deep pockets
- Post dentistry intra-oral close up digital photograph
- Patient recovery – with skilled nursing attendant
- Patient discharge performed with technician describing procedure and individualized home care instructions
- Post dentistry phone call from one of our technicians one day after patient arrives home
- Medial progress examination with doctor if necessary