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The Advanced Animal Care Centre Dentistry Difference

Not all veterinary services are alike. At AACC we provide the highest level of care available for our patients. We are very proud of the advancements that have been made in veterinary dental care & anesthesia in recent years. We fully embrace these changes. We have invested in state of the art equipment and continuing education for our doctors and nurses. We want our clients to understand the difference between the type of care that we offer and the other services that may be available at other hospitals.

	Most veterinary hospitals	Advanced Animal Care Centre
Step 1	The pet is examined by a doctor and as long as no problems are seen visibly, the animal is deemed healthy enough for anesthesia.	After ensuring that your pet is free from abnormalities on physical examination we will perform screening chemistries and a complete blood count to be sure that your pet's kidneys, liver, and other organs are functioning properly and he does not have anemia or issues with his white blood cells. After evaluating this information, the doctor may recommend a urinalysis, thyroid testing, etc. if indicated. If any disease is present we want to catch it in the early stage in order to give your pet the best prognosis possible and to ensure that we address the problem before anesthetizing him.
Step 2	The pet is anesthetized using a set protocol. One technician watches to be sure the pet continues breathing while he/she cleans his teeth.	<p>The doctor and dental nurse customize each pet's anesthetic regimen with a combination of safe injectable medications and modern inhalant gas. We have developed our protocols based on the recommendations of a board certified anesthesiologist. Each pet received an antibiotic before the dental cleaning to prevent systemic infection.</p> <p>A separate nurse monitors your pet's blood pressure, respiration, heart rate, oxygenation, electrocardiogram & temperature throughout the procedure. A written record is kept of these parameters so that the doctor & nurses may watch for any negative trends.</p> <p>All pets undergoing dental care receive fluid therapy by intravenous catheter during anesthesia to maintain vascular volume, hydration, and blood pressure.</p>
Step 3	The tartar is scraped away by hand and with some type of a scaling machine by a technician. The teeth are polished using a buffing paste.	<p>1) Supragingival Cleaning: The dental nurse cleans the teeth above the gumline using a hand scaler and follows with an ultrasonic scaler. The areas between crowded teeth are flossed to remove debris that has collected.</p> <p>2) Subgingival Cleaning: The dental nurse changes to a more delicate handpiece on the ultrasonic scaler to clean below the gumline of each tooth. This is the most important step because the subgingival plaque and calculus is what causes periodontal disease.</p> <p>3) Subgingival/Sulcal Lavage: We gently flush the gingiva with an antibacterial solution to prevent debris to become trapped under the gums which can cause local inflammation, as well as increase the chance of future periodontal disease.</p> <p>4) Polishing: The dental nurse polishes every surface of every tooth- especially below the gumline. The smooth surface will decrease the adhesive ability of plaque.</p>



Step 4	The technician lets the doctor know if any teeth are loose. Loose teeth are extracted by the doctor & it is assumed that all roots have been removed. The gums are left open. If no loose teeth are seen, the technician wakes the pet from anesthesia & documents a dental cleaning the medical record.	The doctor looks at the pet's entire mouth looking for any disease or masses. The doctor uses a periodontal probe to measure the periodontal sulcal depth around each tooth to search for abnormal pockets caused by gum disease. Each tooth is also evaluated for fractures, discoloration, gum recession and movement . Every abnormality is recorded on a special dental chart of your pet's mouth.
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Step 5	If no teeth were extracted, the pet's owner is informed that there were no problems and the pet is sent home.	The doctor calls the owner to recommend any further treatments that may be needed. Radiographs are normally recommended in all cats and in any dog with broken, loose, or abnormal teeth.
Step 6		Any extractions, sealants, gingival surgery, etc that has been recommended will be performed. The pet is given an injection of an anti-inflammatory & a local anesthetic is injected into the area around the teeth to prevent pain where teeth are extracted. All extraction sites are radiographed to be sure that the entire roots have been removed. The gingiva is sutured closed over the extraction site to speed healing and prevent infection.
Step 7		Fluoride is applied to the teeth to help strengthen enamel, decrease tooth sensitivity, and prevent plaque buildup.
Step 8		Oravet plaque prevention gel is a waxy substance that is applied to the teeth to prevent plaque from building up in the months following the cleaning. A take home kit is provided so that you may continue to apply the gel after brushing your pet's teeth.
Step 9		Your pet is continuously monitored all day by a team of nurses. His vitals are recorded and any negative trends are immediately reported to the doctor. His IV fluids are continued until he is ready to go home and morphine is given if any painful procedures were performed.

Ultimately, it is always the owner's decision to choose the level of care for their pet. We will always be advocates for the health, comfort and well being of your pet. It is our responsibility to offer the tests and procedures that will keep your pet healthy and free from disease. It is not unusual to discover problems as your pet ages. This is a natural part of the life process. When problems are detected early, they can usually be effectively managed. We want to provide the recommendations that will help your pet live a long and happy life. If you have specific questions, please don't hesitate to ask any person on our staff.

Thank you for giving Advanced Animal Care Centre the opportunity to care for your pet!