

What You Need to Know Following Your Pet's Dental Procedure

What to Expect After Your Pet's Oral Surgery:

- When you arrive to pick up your pet, the Doctor or Veterinary Dental Assistant will discuss the procedure that was performed and go over written discharge instructions with you. Any additional questions can be answered at that time.
- A recheck appointment may be recommended depending on the procedure that was performed, and our Customer Service Representatives are available to pre-schedule these appointments if needed.
- When you return home, your pet should go to a quiet room to rest and recover. They can go outside for urination (possibly increased due to intravenous fluids given during surgery) and bowel movements (possibly delayed or decreased as a result of pain medications) that night. The next day they should have restricted activity. Usually, pets can return to normal activity levels 2 days after their procedure.
- A small meal can be offered upon returning home. For 3-14 days after surgery (depending on the specific surgery), your pet should not put anything other than soft food in his or her mouth. If dry food is typically fed, it can be soaked in hot water or broth for 20-30 minutes before offering. Changing the diet can cause gastrointestinal distress, so only offer canned food if your pet receives it regularly. Raw diets should not be offered for 48 hours, as general anesthesia can suppress the immune system, and the bacteria typically found in raw diets could cause illness if your pet's immune system is not functioning optimally.
- An endotracheal tube is always placed during surgery to deliver gas anesthetic agents, protect the airway from fluid and bacteria, and to allow us to control breathing if needed. The ET tube may cause tracheal irritation, and a cough is not unusual for 1-2 days after intubation. Please call if coughing is severe or does not resolve in 2-3 days.
- Oral surgery is associated with some mild postoperative bleeding and bloody drool. Bloody sneezing and mild nasal bleeding are common after certain oral surgeries. If bleeding is severe (more than 1 drop every 10 seconds), apply mild pressure with a soft cloth and seek veterinary attention.
 - Sutures that are placed within the mouth are dissolve normally within 2 to 3 weeks.
 - If skin sutures are placed these will require removal in 14 days.
- If you were referred, your referring clinic will receive the following:
 - Referral letter describing the care provided, dental chart, anesthesia log, medical summary, radiograph report, and photos.

Possible Postoperative Complications:

Although rare, postoperative complications can include the following:

- Swelling
- Severe bleeding
- Infection
- Dehiscence (opening of the surgical sites).
- Anesthetic agents can cause short-term dysphoria, disorientation, whining or howling, incoordination, loss of control of bladder or bowels.

- Possible severe anesthetic complications (extremely rare) include aspiration leading to pneumonia, low blood pressure leading to kidney failure, auto-immune thrombocytopenia or hemolytic anemia, loss of vision or hearing, or persistent nerve tingling (which may cause pawing at the mouth).
- Possible long-term complications of oral surgery are persistent drooling, inability to chew large treats or certain foods, and decreased ability to pick up toys.
- Patients with no remaining teeth should not be fed chunky foods, as these pose a choking hazard.