

## **What You Need to Know About Your Pet's Dentistry Consultation and Surgery:**

### **The Initial Dentistry Referral Consultation:**

- The Veterinarian and Veterinary Dentistry Assistant will thoroughly review records provided by your primary veterinary clinic prior to your appointment time.
  - This includes review of previous intraoral dental radiographs if obtained, lab work and other diagnostic modalities (such as echocardiogram report, chest radiographs, biopsies, etc.).
- When you arrive, you will be placed into an examination room with your pet. Our Veterinary Dentistry Assistant will come in and get an initial history about your pet and go over any medications along with current diet.
- The Doctor will complete a physical examination and offer a treatment plan for your pet. Often, it is impossible to give an accurate estimate for the procedure until your pet has received a thorough examination under anesthesia. However, we will provide a thorough estimate for your pet and go through it in detail.
- If you agree to the recommended treatment, we can usually perform the procedure the same day or it can be rescheduled for a more convenient time for you.
- If you elect to proceed, we will have you complete a surgery authorization form and sign the estimates.

### **Preparation for Your Pet's Procedure:**

- Please withhold food at least eight hours prior to the scheduled appointment unless instructed otherwise by the dentistry scheduling coordinator. Toy breeds, pets under 10 lb or pediatric patients may be requested to eat a small meal the morning of the consult/procedure.
  - This is your best contribution to your pet's safety during anesthesia.
- Your pet can have access to water until the morning of the appointment.
- **Please discuss any medication your pet is taking with our staff when scheduling your appointment so they can give specific instructions regarding medication.**
  - If your pet is on insulin, we **recommend** that you bring in your pets' insulin the day of the consultation/procedure. A continuous glucose monitoring device may be placed to ensure appropriate glucose readings during the procedure.
  - If your primary provider recommends a premedication protocol for home use (for example Gabapentin and/or Trazodone), administer the prescribed medication at bedtime the night before and 2 hours prior to getting in the car on procedure day as directed by your primary veterinarian.
  - Dependent on the type of referral, if advanced oral surgery is necessary, our staff may recommend you discontinue the usage of some medications 2-weeks prior to scheduled consultation and possible procedure:
    - Fish oil which can slow down blood clotting.
- Please ensure sure your pet gets normal exercise or a walk prior to the appointment, so they can eliminate urine or feces normally.

- For the safety of you and your pet, please have a leash or carrier for appropriate restraint when coming to the appointment. [For more information visit: Patient Arrival Policy located at [lakecountyvet.com/clinic-policies-more-info](http://lakecountyvet.com/clinic-policies-more-info)]
- All of our patients go home on the same day as we do not provide overnight hospitalization.
  - For more anesthetic concerning patients we may recommend overnight hospitalization at Blue Pearl Pet Hospital in Duluth, Minnesota.

**What to Expect During Your Pet's Procedure:**

- After your pet has been checked in for surgery, we will collect a blood sample for pre-anesthetic tests. This includes Complete Blood Count and Blood Chemistry, along with other diagnostic tests if necessary (Urinalysis, Chest X-Rays).
- Many of these tests may have been recently performed by your regular veterinarian and do not need to be repeated if they have been completed within the previous 30 days.
- We will shave a small spot on your pet's leg for us to place an intravenous (IV) catheter.
  - This will be the location where fluids and medications are delivered.
- A pre-anesthetic medication will be administered to help your pet relax, control post-operative pain, and to lessen the amount of general anesthesia that will be used.
- An IV medication will be administered to help your pet fall asleep so we can intubate your pet (place a breathing tube) and connect your pet to a gas anesthesia machine.
- Your pet will be connected to monitors to measure vital signs and IV fluids will be administered. The anesthesia time will be determined by the type of procedure performed.
- Once we have obtained full mouth dental radiographs and completed our thorough oral evaluation, we may contact you by phone to give you a more accurate estimate if recommendations are different than previously discussed.
- After the procedure is completed, your pet will recover in a designated kennel area where they will be closely monitored until they are fully recovered. We will contact you to arrange a discharge time for your pet.

**Ability to Contact You During Your Pet's Procedure:**

- Your pet's procedure is very important to us, and we will need to communicate with you about treatment options, prognosis, and estimated expenses. It is most beneficial to you and your pet to treat other problems that are identified while working with your pet during the same anesthesia period. We want to have the opportunity to discuss treatment options with you and allow you to be a key decision maker in the optimal care of your pet.
- We will need at least one contact telephone number (cell phones are wonderful, but they may not have excellent service in all areas), preferably two or more. Names and phone numbers for other family members can help in the event we are unable to reach you.
- If we are unable to get a hold of you and you have approved the already provided estimate, we will perform what was approved only. We will attempt to reach you for 5 minutes after those treatments have been performed and will then need to recover your pet for their safety.