



Home Care Instructions: Dental

Dr. Kemp
Dr. Johnson
Dr. Vander Hart

 Patient: _____

 Doctor/Tech: _____



24-48 hours after surgery

- Your pet may be slow for the next 24-48 hours
 - Keep your pet quiet for at least 24 hours after surgery
 - No running, jumping, or playing
- Vomiting is a common side effect of the anesthetic
 - Limit food and water for the first feeding (if they're free-fed, please pull food/water until tonight)
 - Resume normal feeding the day after surgery
- Their mouth may also be tender due to the deep cleaning at the gum line and if teeth were pulled
 - You may soften the food for a day or two with warm water
 - Excess saliva with some blood after extractions is normal for some patients
- Please follow the instructions and finish the medication(s) as prescribed

When Should You Call Your Vet?

- Excessive lethargy, abnormal/difficulty breathing, severe pain, refusal to eat after 48 hours



Frequently Asked Questions

- How many teeth were pulled today?

- Can my pet still eat hard food?
 - Yes!
 - Follow "after surgery" instructions
 - Even dogs with little to no teeth can still eat hard food
 - May be easier and safer if the kibble is softened with warm water
- How many permanent teeth are dogs/cats suppose to have?
 - Dogs: 42
 - Cats: 30
- What can I do at home for dental care?
 - Helpful clinic products
 - CET Chews
 - Veggiedents
 - Other at-home strategies continued on the back
 - Daily or weekly brushing
 - **DO NOT USE human toothpaste - fluoride is toxic when swallowed in large amounts**

Prescribed Medication:

Important Dental Info + Future Dental Care

Dental Care Information

- Signs of unhealthy teeth and gums
 - Bad breath
 - Difficulty eating and chewing or not wanting to eat at all
 - Red and inflamed gums
 - Thickened buildup on teeth
 - Discolored or broken teeth
 - Growths



Why is Dental Care So Important?

- Without regular at-home dental care, plaque buildup can lead to irreversible damage
- Dental disease allows bacteria to spread from the mouth through the blood stream to all organs in the body
 - Can lead to a painful infection
 - Postponed dental cleanings can cause health issues due to disease progression
 - Abscessed teeth
 - Loss of teeth
 - Pet refusing to eat due to pain of severe dental disease
- Prevention is better for your dog (and your wallet) than treatment

At-Home Dental Care Strategies

These options DO NOT REPLACE routine dental care/exams at the vet clinic!

- Toothpastes, toothbrushes, and dental wipes
 - Dental chews
 - Dental diets
 - Rubber or rope toys designed for dental care
 - Oral gels and sprays/rinses
 - Water additives

****Ask us about approved products from the Vet Oral Health Council ****
- Steps for toothbrushing
 - Do daily brushing if possible or at least several times a week
 - Dog toothbrushes are angled and make the process more efficient and comfortable
 - Other option - finger toothbrushes
 - Harder for smaller dogs
 - Allow the dog to lick pet-safe toothpaste off a finger
 - Using a finger or gauze covered with toothpaste, massage a few teeth at a time
 - Work up to one side of the mouth
 - Allow the dog to lick the toothpaste off a toothbrush
 - Gently scrub the outer surfaces of the teeth in small, circular motions

