

# Your Pet's Dental Procedure: What to Expect and How to Prepare

## The Dental COHAT (Comprehensive Oral Health Exam and Treatment):

This procedure consists of a full dental exam, cleaning, and assessment of teeth, gums, and associated structures with treatment recommendations. Plaque and tartar removal and dental X-rays help us diagnose periodontal disease, tooth resorption lesions, fractures, infections, stomatitis, and oral masses. After the assessment, the veterinarian will contact you to discuss treatment options, time estimates, and obtain consent to proceed at the time of the cleaning.

If extensive treatment or extractions are needed, a follow-up procedure may be required within 6-8 weeks, allowing time for healing and ensuring safety.

***The estimate given is based on physical exam findings. After the prophylactic cleaning, dental X-rays, and assessment, additional dental disease may be discovered.***

**X-rays:** Full-mouth dental X-rays are highly recommended for assessing and diagnosing dental disease, as some conditions can't be fully evaluated without imaging below the gumline. If you opt out of dental X-rays, we will assess and determine the best course of action based on the oral exam, but this may miss dental disease below the gumline. The single-view X-ray option is available and targets only visibly questionable teeth, which may miss underlying pathology in seemingly healthy teeth.

***We have discussed dental recommendations for your pet to provide the maximum health and preventative benefits: Please let us know if you have any further questions.***

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## PREPARING FOR THE PROCEDURE:

Before the procedure, you'll receive a treatment plan and consent form. The consent form can be signed either virtually or in person and should be returned to the clinic before the procedure date, if possible.

**Cerenia:** We recommend giving your pet Cerenia, an anti-nausea tablet, 2 hours prior to surgical admit to help reduce nausea and support a quicker return to appetite after surgery. As this medication is dosed by weight, your pet may need to be weighed prior to their surgery date. If you are unable to administer the medication at least 2 hours prior to your surgical admission time, please give it at bedtime the night before.

**Peanesthetic Bloodwork:** We recommend performing this diagnostic testing 1-2 weeks prior to your pet's dentistry to ensure they are a good candidate for the procedure. This bloodwork helps to ensure they have normal blood cell counts and healthy internal organ function, enhancing the safety of the procedure and reducing the risk of complications.

**Fasting:** No food should be given after 10:00 pm the night before the procedure. Water is permitted until 6:00 am on the day of the procedure.

**Calming Medication:** Calming medication may be prescribed to help ease any fear or anxiety your pet may have. This can be administered the night before the procedure and again in the morning, 2 hours before admission.

**Important Instructions for Chronic Medication:** If your cat or dog is taking Fortekor (Benazepril), Enacard (Enalapril), Semintra (Telmisartan) or Theophylline, please do not give this medication for the 24 hours before your pet's procedure. **For cats only:** Please discontinue Omega 3 fatty acids 14 days prior to the procedure and then restart the day after.

**Reminder Call:** A Veterinary Technician will call the day prior to the procedure to confirm the admission time and fasting instructions, review the consent form, and answer any questions you may have.

## THE DAY OF THE PROCEDURE:

On the morning of the procedure, you will meet with a Veterinary Technician at your scheduled admission time. The admission will take 10-15 minutes to review the consent form, additional services, questions, and any health concerns. Your pet will receive a gastrointestinal diet upon their recovery. If your pet requires a special diet, please bring it with you. You are welcome to bring your pet's favourite toys or blanket for enhanced comfort.

**Pre-Surgical Exam & Assessment:** Upon admission, we will perform a full physical exam, including recording your pet's vital signs, and provide them with a comfy bed and any support items you've brought from home.

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### PRE-SURGICAL EXAM & ASSESSMENT:

Our procedures are performed under general anesthesia, with all measures taken to ensure a safe, comfortable, and fear-free experience for our patients from start to finish.

**Step 1:** Your pet will be given pain control and a sedative to help calm their anxiety and prepare them for a smooth, comfortable procedure.

**Step 2:** An intravenous catheter is placed to allow safe administration of medications for the induction of anesthetic. IV fluids are initiated to maintain hydration, provide blood pressure support, and allow for a better recovery from anesthesia.

**Step 3:** Intubation with an endotracheal tube allows inhalant anesthetic and oxygen to be administered and ensures your pet's airway and ventilation is safely and properly protected.

**Step 4:** Constant anesthetic monitoring is performed by a qualified Veterinary Technician and involves monitoring your pet's heart rate, breathing, ECG, oxygen levels, blood pressure, hydration, and temperature. A patient warming system is used, as well as socks and warm packs, to keep your pet cozy during their procedure.

**Step 5:** We use multimodal pain management which involves using a blend of short- and long-acting pain medication and nerve blocks prior to, during, and after the surgery to ensure better healing and a calm, pain-free recovery.

**Step 6:** The dental COHAT is performed by our skilled Veterinary Technicians and Veterinarians and a full assessment is performed by the Veterinarian, who will call to make treatment recommendations and formulate a plan with your consent. This may include soft-tissue procedures, surgical extractions, crown amputations and other dental-specific procedures. On occasion, a second staged procedure is performed within 6-8 weeks of the first procedure if extensive treatment is required. Your attending Veterinarian will discuss this with you if needed.



**Anesthetic  
Machine**



**IV Pump**



**Chill Buster & Bair  
Warming System**



**Anesthetic  
Monitoring**

## RECOVERY FROM PROCEDURE:

After the procedure, your pet will be wrapped in warm blankets with heating packs and closely monitored. A Veterinary Technician will stay with them until they are fully recovered. Additional pain medication will be provided as needed to ensure their comfort.

Once your pet has recovered, our team will call to provide an update and schedule pickup. A customized medication plan will be created to ensure your pet's comfort at home, and calming medication may be discussed if needed for a smooth recovery.

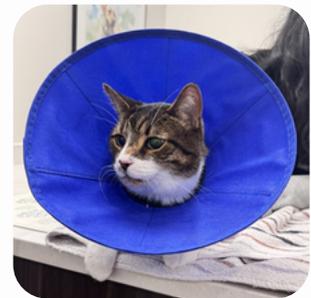
To prevent interference with stitches, a cone collar may be provided for 1-2 weeks.



**E-Collar**



**E-Collar**



**Soft Collar**

**Pick-Up Time:** At the scheduled discharge time, you will meet with a Veterinary Technician to review the procedure, extraction sites or treated areas, and receive home care instructions. We will also go over medication administration and timing for recovery. Please bring any questions you have to ensure a smooth recovery. We will discuss plans for a follow-up visit or photo consult in 1-2 weeks to check on healing and recovery.

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## THE DAY AFTER SURGERY:

We will call the day after the surgery to check in, make sure you and your pet are doing well, and address any further questions. Please feel free to contact us at any time with any questions or concerns.

## AFTER DENTAL COHAT:

Depending on the treatment, we may recommend pain management, antibiotics, oral rinse, and special feeding instructions. Dental home care is crucial for maintaining your pet's dental health between cleanings. We will discuss home care options and when to start at discharge. These will be reviewed during the post-operative recheck. For proven dental care options, visit <https://vohc.org/>.

**We appreciate being able to take part in this journey with you and your pet!  
Please do not hesitate to ask any further questions.**

**Sincerely,  
Veterinarians and Staff of Ilderton Pet Hospital**