

Park Place Animal Hospital

1050 Park Ave. Greensboro, GA 30642

706-453-2838

Standard Dental Information

A routine dental prophylaxis (prophylaxis) is performed *to prevent* dental disease. This is recommended *yearly* or every 2-3 years in pets that have good in-home care and proper diet as hidden subgingival tartar/disease may be present. A fee based on the time required and supplies required is assessed for this service. This price includes all that your pet needs to have a safe healthy prophylactic procedure. It includes the standard preanesthesia lab work, hospitalization, premedications, IV catheter, IV fluids, anesthesia induction, anesthesia monitoring, dental scaling, polishing and Oravet application. This is further explained below.

Unfortunately, many times before dental care is provided for pets, dental disease is present. Just as in treating any other disease or injury, dental *treatment* requires a higher level of skill and knowledge, increased time, additional procedures and medications than if just preventive dental care is required. Just as preventive care for your pet is relatively inexpensive, treating dental disease can be significantly more costly. A comparison is if you take good care of your car with regular lube, oil and filter changes, and the cost is minimal compared to having to rebuild the engine or transmission. There is a wide variation in the degree of dental health in pets. Dental disease can be put into four categories: tartar, gingivitis, pyorrhea and periodontitis.

Tartar is the accumulation of plaque that has hardened on the teeth, usually starting at the gumline in conjunction with gingivitis.

Gingivitis is inflammation of the gums. The gums may be irritated, inflamed or infected. You can easily see this by the increase in the pinkness of your pet's gums, especially at the gumline. The gingiva may have receded, allowing tooth roots to be exposed. The gingiva may have become hyperplastic, a condition where too much tissue has developed in an area.

Pyorrhea is very serious. It is pus in the mouth, usually between teeth and gums. This infection is usually causing periodontitis, which is loss of bone that holds the teeth in. Pyorrhea and Periodontitis go hand in hand. These pets may have damage to their heart valves, liver, kidneys and lungs caused by the dental disease. Once a kidney cell is damaged, it will never recover, nor be replaced by the body. We must prevent further damage to the kidneys. These pets are at increased risk, and require special care. We must be more cautious with these pets. We have gone to great expense to insure your pet is well monitored under the safest anesthesia possible.

Dental health is your choice. Let us help you keep your pet as healthy as possible. What we will do: (Note: The steps that require extra care have an asterisk behind them, and incur extra charge to be performed as these are for dental treatment)

We will perform a preanesthesia physical exam.

We will listen for heart murmurs or arrhythmias and will alert you if any irregularities exist. If any abnormalities are discovered, an ECG and thoracic x-rays will be recommended. *

We will listen to the lungs of your pet.

We will not proceed if we feel your pet is not in appropriate health for anesthesia.

A preanesthesia blood screen will be completed.

Like you, our greatest concern while your pet is here is his/her well being. Before putting your pet under anesthesia, we will perform a preanesthesia lab analysis. Not all conditions are readily detected by a general physical examination. This includes some congenital (present at birth) problems. Additionally we keep teeth clean to help keep the pet as healthy as possible. Since dental disease can lead to kidney, liver, lung and/or heart disease, it is important to objectively evaluate your pet's internal organ systems. By completing a preanesthesia lab panel, we will find out enough about your pet's kidney and liver function, as well as the percentage of red cells and levels of electrolytes to insure your pet's ability to safely undergo anesthesia. Preanesthesia lab work helps insure your pet is in a low risk category for anesthesia. This information will help us help your pet through and after today's procedures. This also allows us a baseline of what is normal in your pet. If your pet is ever *sick*, we can compare it to *your pet's* actual normal values. **Note: if you bring your pet in 1-7 days prior to the scheduled dentistry date, we will collect the sample and perform an evaluation. This will ensure that there are no "surprises" the day of the dentistry. If possible, please arrange for this service in advance.**

If any significant abnormalities are detected, Dr. Prichard or Brosman will contact you to discuss further diagnostics, if they are indicated.

A preanesthetic injection will be given.

This injection helps sedate your pet, reduces stress, and offers pain control.

An intravenous catheter will be placed and IV fluids started.

Just as your doctor would place an IV catheter before anesthesia, so will we. IV catheters allow further IV injections to be given without stress to your pet. Additionally, it is a further security while your pet is under anesthesia. IV fluids are administered to help maintain blood pressure to support organ health and function as well as prevent dehydration.

General anesthesia will be induced.

The heart and respiration will be monitored. We use anesthetic protocols designed to be as safe as possible specific for your pet. Our anesthetic protocol provides for pain control. Most pets wake up minutes after procedures are completed. We provide warmth during

and after anesthesia, to prevent the body from cooling and keep your pet as comfortable as possible. Most pets are relatively 'bouncy' by the time they go home. Since sensitivities vary to anesthesia and sedation, some pets may continue to be more sedate than normal for 24 hours.

An antibiotic injection will be given.

An antibiotic injection provides a line of defense against bacteria. This will be given in addition to any required oral antibiotics in those animals with stage II or greater periodontal disease and those with pre-existing conditions (eg. Heart murmurs, systemic disease).

We will take x-rays of your pet's teeth.

Most dental pathology lies beneath the gumline and cannot be seen without the use of radiographs. In order to accurately diagnose conditions and create an appropriate dental plan, the extent of existing pathology must be known.

We will scale the tartar off the teeth.

We will 'probe' around each tooth to determine if there is any periodontal disease and an individual charting of your pet's teeth will be placed in his/her record.

We will extract any tooth we feel is diseased or otherwise causing pain. *

Extracting teeth requires additional time, instrumentation and *skill*. Only the doctor will extract teeth. This service is again charged per the time it takes at the current *surgery* rate. All patients receiving extractions will receive local anesthetics to numb the affected teeth. We have the instrumentation to allow extractions in as little time as possible. Alternatively, we will alert you if we feel a tooth can be treated with endodontics

We will treat gum disease if indicated. *

Most pets do not require this option. A gingivectomy is removal of excess gum tissue that may be a source of pain for your pet or be creating a pocket. These pockets provide a home for bacteria to hide, and lead to periodontal disease. If tissue looks questionable, we will recommend biopsy of these tissues. Most of these tissues are benign growth, but a cancerous tumor may appear similar. A gel may be applied which will provide appropriate antibiotics directly to the gum line for an extended time.

We will polish the teeth.

The polish is important to help delay the recurrence of plaque and tartar.

We will apply a final antibacterial rinse to the teeth.

We will apply Oravet Prophy Barrier Sealant.

Additional pain medication(s) will be administered if deemed appropriate. *

Pain medication will be used and prescribed if teeth are extracted or a gingivectomy has been performed, but may be indicated in other circumstances.

Antivomiting medication will be used if there are signs of nausea upon recovery.

Most pets do not vomit after our dental care.

An antibiotic may be prescribed. *

Many factors will be considered as to whether your pet should be on oral antibiotics. Since many pets will have gingivitis or worse, these pets will be prescribed a systemic orally administered antibiotic.

We will provide you a "before and after" photo of your pet's teeth.

We will offer a selection of products for home care and a demonstration. *

We recommend daily dental hygiene for your pet to help prevent the need for professional dental treatment. This should be enjoyable for both of you. We offer Oravet, a product that helps prevent plaque and bacteria from attaching to the teeth for weekly home care, CET Aquadent, a drinking water additive that reduced oral odors and may help control plaque and tartar, and CET oral chews. Brushing your pet's teeth is the best means of preventing oral disease, and we can provide appropriate toothpaste and toothbrushes as well.

We will recommend a dental diet. *

Hills Science makes a food, t/d (tartar control diet) that has been produced for keeping the teeth clean. This food is even good enough to give as treats, but can be fed exclusively or as part of the pet's regular diet. This food has also helped some pets reduce weight. We also offer Royal Canin dental diet.

We will make recommendations if we think further diagnostics or treatments are indicated for your pet for any reason. For your peace of mind, we will call you when your pet is in recovery.

*** Additional charge for service/product**