

Your Pet's Dentistry Procedure





Does your pets breath smell?



Periodontal disease is the most common disease in dogs and cats.

Without adequate care and attention, periodontal disease can result in pain, bad breath, loose teeth, irreversible damage to the gums, premature loss of teeth, and infection that may affect other organs in the body such as the heart, liver and kidneys.

Preoperative Physical and Intraoral Examination

At Fairmount Animal Hospital, we are committed to your pet's oral health. We begin with a physical examination to understand your pet's overall health. An awake oral exam is part of the physical exam. We assign a preliminary 'stage' of periodontal disease and look for missing, fractured, worn, and mobile teeth and tooth resorption.



Preoperative Bloodwork



Depending on our physical exam findings we will recommend preoperative bloodwork and possibly other tests before your pet's dentistry procedure. Often the laboratory work can be completed in our in house laboratory with the results available within 15 minutes.



Preoperative Antibiotics

Preoperative oral antibiotics or an antibiotic injection the day of the procedure may be indicated for your pet depending on their overall health. Just as with humans, if your pet is healthy, they will be able to handle the bacteria that might be released from the tartar during their dentistry procedure.



If your pet has severe periodontal disease, or pre existing heart, liver or kidney disease or is immune compromised, then our doctors may elect to use antibiotics prior to their dentistry procedure.

The Dental Suite



Preemptive Multimodal Pain Management

Prior to your pet's procedure they will be given drugs, similar to morphine, that will provide pain relief during their procedure and also sedate them. Administration of these drugs allow us to use less inhalant anesthesia during their procedure.

Zelda rests in the office prior to her procedure



Placement of IV Catheter



General anesthesia is required to enable us to complete the dentistry procedure and allows us to perform a thorough examination of all of your pet's teeth. The first step of this procedure is placement of an intravenous catheter. A small area on your pet's leg will be shaved and is surgically prepped prior to placement of the intravenous catheter. Intravenous fluids are administered during anesthesia to stabilize blood pressure and to protect your pet's organ function under anesthesia.

Intravenous Fluids



Zelda's intravenous catheter is placed and she is now on intravenous fluids delivered at a specific rate by flowing through an IV fluid pump.

General Anesthesia



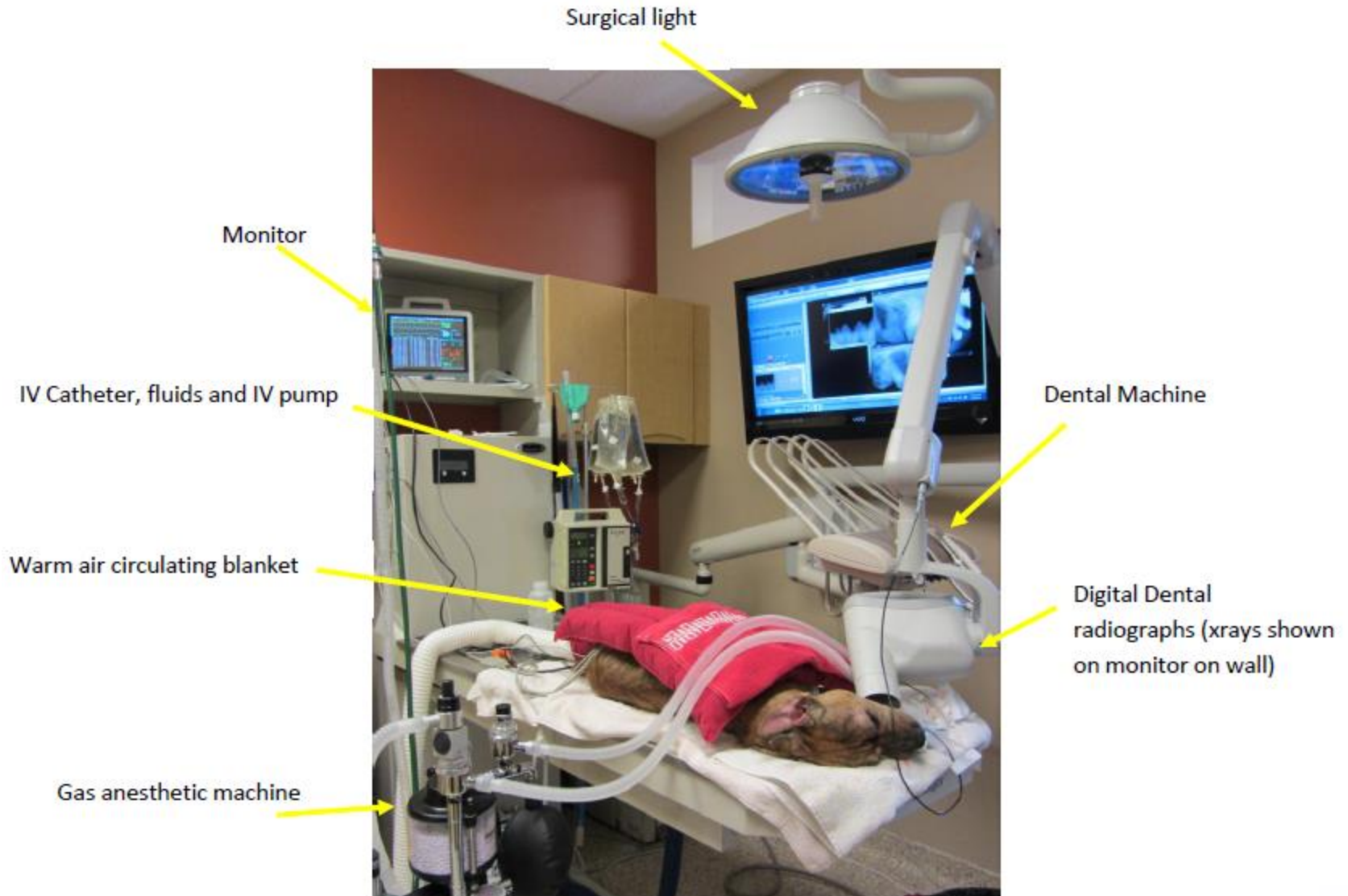
An endotracheal tube is placed in her airway to allow her to be connected to the gas anesthetic machine. She will breathe in oxygen mixed with gas anesthesia and will change the level of gas anesthesia based on the data from the monitors and based on our technician's assessment of the level of anesthesia.

Anesthetic Monitoring



We monitor your pet's heart rate and rhythm with an EKG, the amount of oxygen in their red blood cells with a pulse oximeter, their blood pressure, the amount of carbon dioxide they are breathing out, their breathing rate and their body temperature.

Patient During Their Procedure



Technician Monitoring During Anesthesia



A technician is dedicated to monitoring your pet while they are under general anesthesia. In addition to watching the monitor they assess the patient regularly to check pulse quality, listen to the heart and adjust the anesthetic depth as needed.

Each patient has a patient warming device to assist in keeping their body temperature normal during anesthesia.

The 'Before' Picture



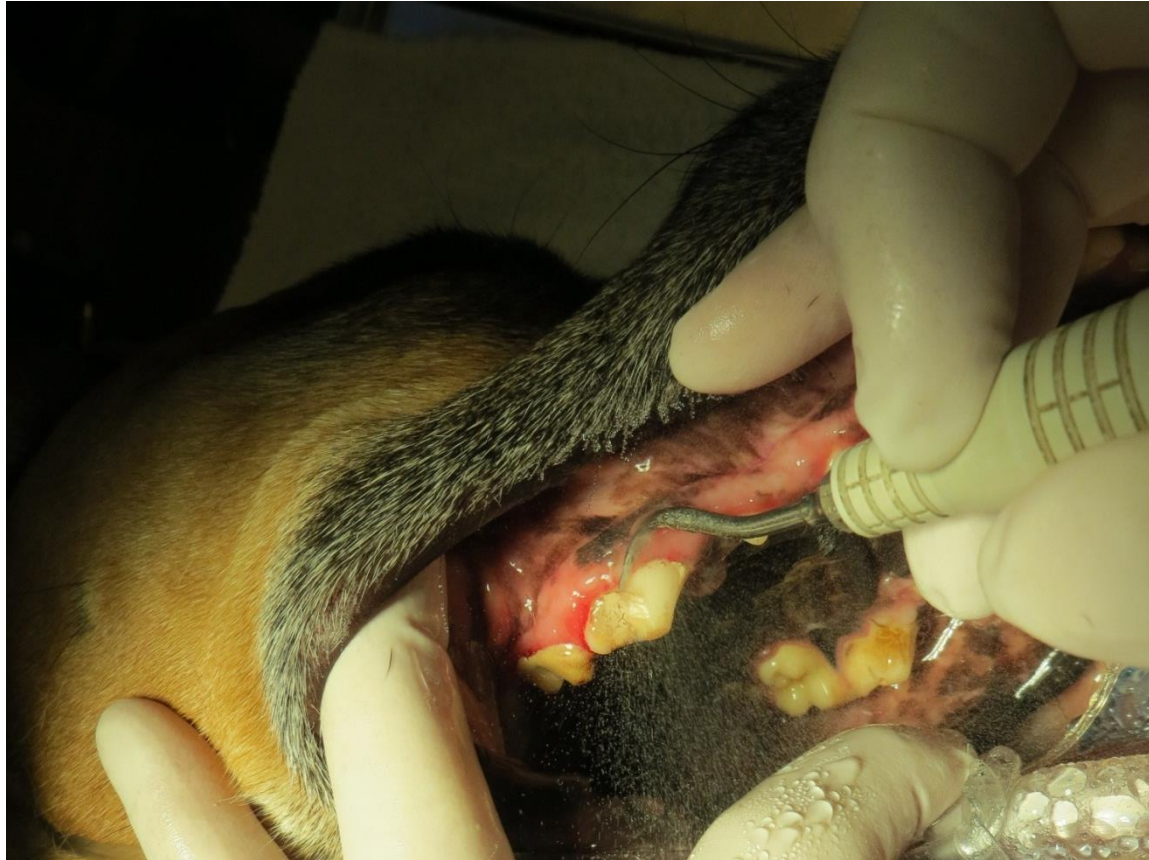
Zelda's teeth before her dentistry procedure, note the tartar present on her teeth and the red gum tissue indicating gingivitis.

Rinse with Chlorhexidine



First, your pet's mouth will be rinsed with chlorhexidine. This will decrease the bacterial load to the patient and also to the staff working on your pet.

Supragingival Scaling



Removal of the plaque and calculus on the crown surfaces of all of the teeth, or supragingival scaling, is next. This step involves the use of an ultrasonic scaler to remove plaque and tartar.

Subgingival Scaling



Removal of the plaque and calculus subgingivally (under the gum tissue) is accomplished with a combination of the ultrasonic scaler and hand instruments called curettes. The subgingival plaque and tartar leads to periodontal disease.

Polishing

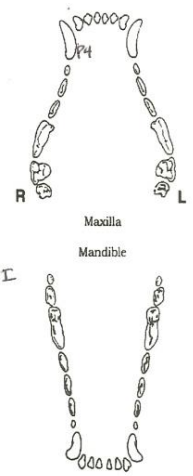
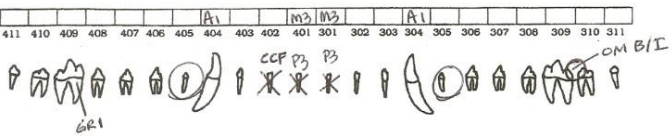
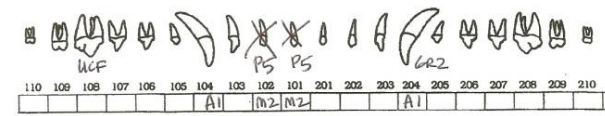


Polishing all of the tooth surfaces and subgingivally removes the imperfections in the enamel created by supragingival and subgingival scaling.

Probing and Charting



Patient Name FIDO Date _____

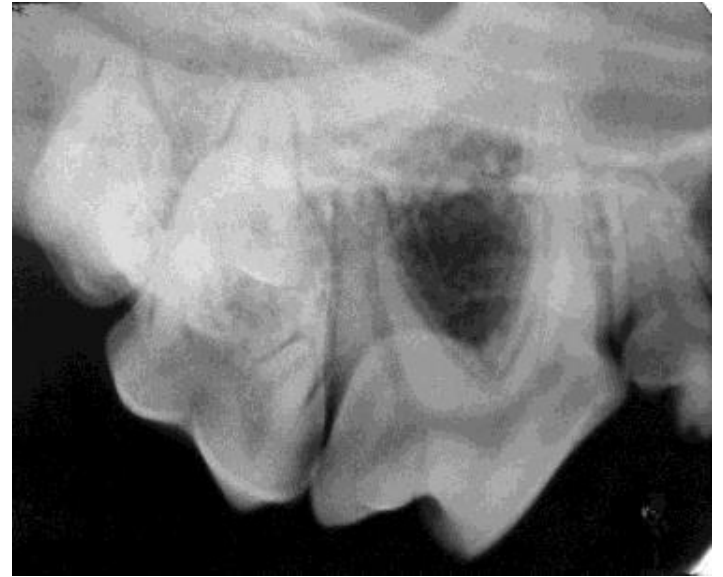


Intraoral Regional Nerve Blocks

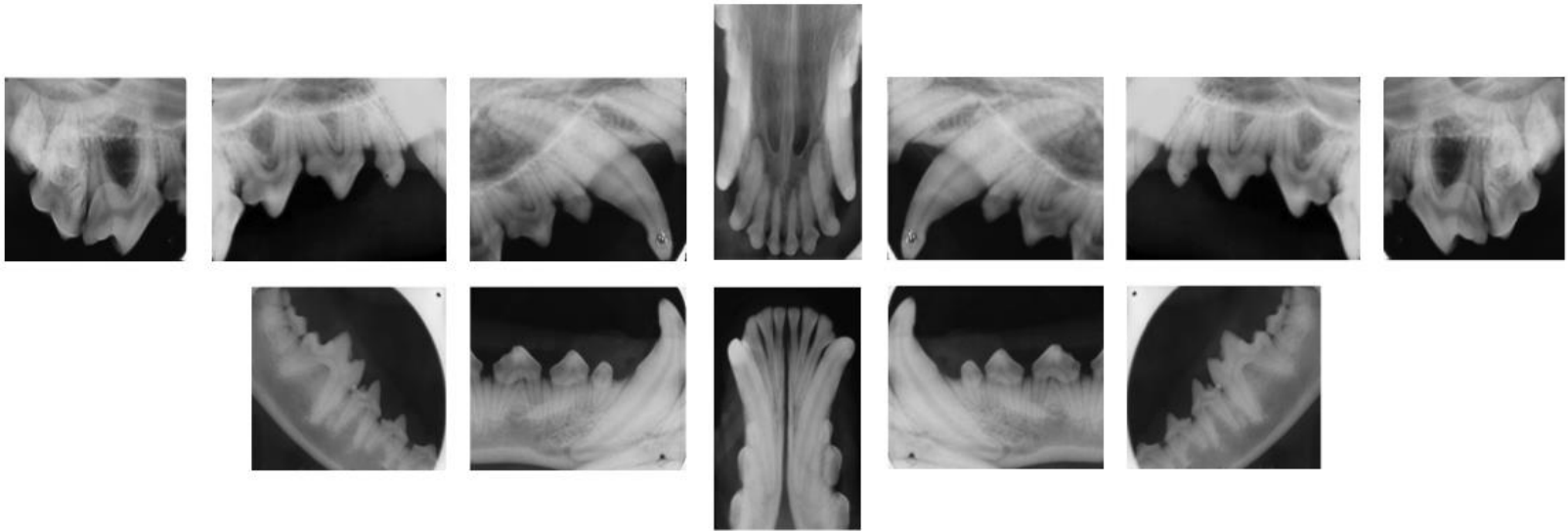
Mental Nerve	R L	0.5% Bupivacaine w/ epi	_____ ml
Inferior Alveolar Nerve	(R) L	0.5% Bupivacaine w/ epi	0.3 ml
Infraorbital Nerve	R L	0.5% Bupivacaine w/ epi	_____ ml
Maxillary Nerve	R L	0.5% Bupivacaine w/ epi	_____ ml

Your dog has 42 teeth and your cat has 30 teeth. A probe is used to evaluate 4 to 6 locations around each tooth to find any 'pockets' or areas of attachment loss which are an indication of periodontal disease. Normal pocket depth in a dog is less than 3mm and in a cat is less than 1mm. In addition, the teeth are examined for fractures, wear, mobility and tooth resorption. A dental chart is completed for your pet.

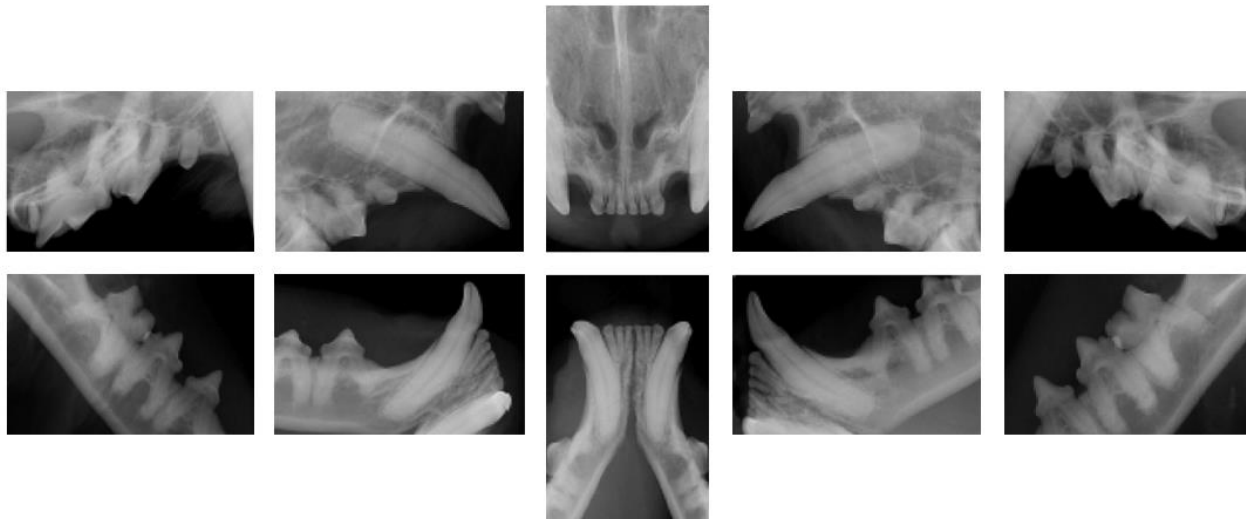
Intraoral Radiographs



Intraoral radiographs are taken of all of your pet's teeth. It is the only way that we can evaluate the root structure under the gum tissue. Intraoral radiographs are required to properly diagnose and treat oral disease. Based on a combination of the oral exam, probing and charting and intraoral radiographs the veterinarian will determine an appropriate treatment plan for each one of your pet's teeth. Treatment may include periodontal surgery or oral surgery.



Dog full mouth radiographs



Cat full mouth radiographs

Dentistry and Oral Surgery Instruments



Your pet will have their own sterilized dentistry and oral surgery pack for the procedure.



Local Anesthetic Nerve Blocks

We utilize local anesthetic nerve blocks for our patients having periodontal surgery or oral surgery.

Oral Surgery Site

Dissolvable stitches are placed in the oral surgery site.



Zelda Before



Zelda After



Walter Before



Walter After

Home Care



Remember that the long term success of your pet's dentistry procedure depends on the degree of plaque control between visits. Daily brushing is the gold standard. In addition, we recommend the use of products accepted by the Veterinary Oral Health Council. Please ask one of our team members to help you customize an oral healthcare program for your pet.



Zelda is waiting for her mom and dad to pick her up after her dentistry procedure.

Postoperative Care

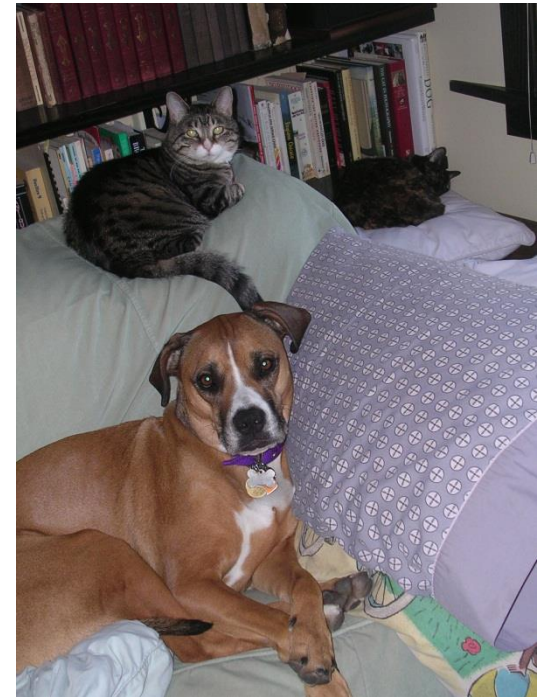
After their procedure, your pet is carefully monitored during their anesthetic recovery. They lie in a warm cage on blankets until they are able to stand and go home.

Your Licensed Veterinary Technician will review your post-operative home care instructions when you pick up your pet.

Thank you for trusting us with the care for your four legged family member.

We treat each pet as if they are our own.

The team at Fairmount Animal Hospital



Creating Healthy Mouths and Happy Patients