

# Alpine Animal Hospital

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## Dental Prophylaxis (teeth cleaning)

### Post-Procedural Instructions

#### *General Information:*

Dental prophylaxis (prophy) is the cleaning and polishing of the teeth. It is performed to treat or prevent periodontal disease. Most dogs and cats have some level of periodontal disease and are susceptible to bad breath, infection, pain and tooth loss. Infections can spread to the kidneys, liver, lungs and heart valves and continuously wear on the body.

#### *Home Care:*

##### **Feeding:**

**\*\*After arriving home, allow your pet to calm down for about 30 minutes.\*\***

Offer a small amount of water at first, followed by 1/3 of your pet's regular dinner. Do not feed your pet anything he/she is not accustomed to. Your pet may not want to eat at all tonight. If your pet does eat he/she might vomit, so do not be alarmed. Normal feeding may resume tomorrow.

##### **Exercise:**

Restrict your pet's activities for 24-48 hours. Do not allow your pet outside unattended. He/she is to be kept on a leash whenever outdoors for two days following the dental prophylaxis. Do not permit your pet to run.

##### **Surgical Considerations:**

Monitor your pet closely at home. If you notice any vomiting, weakness, decrease in appetite or any other problems, please call us.

Your pet was placed under gas anesthesia. A small tube was placed down his/her throat and can sometimes cause irritation for a day or two. If there is persistent coughing for more than two days, let us know.

##### **Maintenance:**

There are several ways to keep your pet's teeth cleaner:

- Brushing your pet's teeth with pet toothpaste 2 to 3 times a week is ideal
- Alternatives are CET Chews, specialty dental diets such as t/d or DH, Kong type toys and water additives
- We applied Oravet to your pet's teeth, which should help slow plaque buildup. This lasts for two weeks. There is a home care kit that you can apply weekly to add to this protection. Please ask a staff member for more information.

Thank you for trusting us with your pet's care!  
**The Doctors & The staff of Alpine Animal Hospital**