



1505 N. Road Street, Elizabeth City, NC 27909, 252-384-0109

## Post-Dental Care Instructions

Your pet has had an anesthetic procedure today and may still feel a little groggy. If he or she prefers to sleep or to avoid human contact, respect that. By tomorrow things should be back to normal.

First try a few licks of water. Then, one hour later feed lightly-approximately 1/3 of a usual meal. If an animal eats or drinks too fast, he/she could vomit. If the small amount is tolerated, you may feed a little more and put down a small amount of water in an hour or so. By evening, you should be able to go back to regular feeding and watering.

Some pets may develop a slight dry cough after anesthesia (especially dogs). This results from an irritation of the trachea (windpipe) by the tube inserted in the trachea to allow your pet to breathe the oxygen and anesthetic mixture. Most coughs are gone in a couple of days, and don't affect the animal's activity. If a cough seems excessive or there seems to be breathing difficulty, please call the office.

It is normal for the gums to be a little sensitive for a few days. Soft foods may be necessary. However, if your pet wants to eat hard food, that is okay (unless otherwise instructed by the doctor). The saliva may have a pinkish tinge for a day or two if the gums were irritated and bled a little. This is especially true if teeth were extracted. If your pet seems to be bleeding excessively, please call the office.

### MAINTENANCE

1. Pet toothpaste (dogs only): Toothpaste formulated for pets is non-foaming and can be swallowed, so the animals don't need to "rinse and spit." Enzymes added to the toothpaste help to destroy plaque more effectively. Pet oriented flavors include poultry, malt and mint. We recommend the C.E.T. brand.
2. Diet: A specialty diet such as Hill's Prescription Diet T/D may also help to slow down tarter accumulation.

We offer a small finger toothbrush (C.E.T. finger brush) to brush your dog's teeth with. You may use a soft toothbrush or gauze-type material to apply the toothpaste. The outside surfaces of the teeth are the most prone to plaque, so concentrate there. Do not place your fingers in the mouth, between the teeth-even a nice animal may accidentally chew on your hands!

Always start by brushing just a few teeth at a time to accustom your pet to the activity. Remember to praise him or her afterward. Sometimes a treat is also in order!

Most pets need more than a few dental cleanings in their lifetime, but regular dental care at home can mean fewer hospital procedures, so keep brushing! All products are available at our hospital; please ask our staff if you have any questions.