



What is Involved in a Professional Dental Cleaning?

Pets often have plaque and tartar- the brown layer that builds up on the surface of the teeth. Once we see evidence of this, it is common to find both gum and periodontal disease that requires treatment. This care must be delivered under general anesthesia. Anesthesia allows us to conduct necessary tests and treatment (probing, x-rays, extractions) in a safe, thorough and pain free manner. By treating dental disease and restoring your pet's oral health, we can relieve pain and help to increase their longevity. Steps of professional teeth cleaning include:

Examination

- Thorough examination of the oral cavity: mouth, gums, teeth, tongue and throat
- Examination is done both at the beginning and end of the procedure
- We look for obvious abnormalities: teeth that are loose, infected, broken or general problem areas

X-Ray

- 70% of all dental disease beneath the gum line
- Allow us to see what is hidden beneath the teeth and gums. We do not want to overlook diseased teeth that may lead to pain, infection and the need for unexpected emergency treatment.

Scaling (above and below the gum line)

- Using an ultrasonic hand piece lightly applied to the tooth surface, a water spray combined with sound waves removes the tartar and plaque.
- Special, thin tipped instruments, created specifically to clean root surfaces are gently used to scale the surfaces below the gum line.
- After the cleaning is completed- both air and water are used to flush any debris from the mouth and gums.

Tooth Polishing

- Polishing repairs minor surface defects and restores a smooth surface that is resistant to new tartar build-up.
- If indicated, medicated gum treatments or oral washes may be used.

Oral Surgery

- Teeth that are loose, infected, misplaced, crowded, broken or have root exposure may need to be extracted. Teeth are only removed when necessary. Sometimes extractions require sutures at the gum line. These sutures are placed with an absorbable material and normally do not require further attention.

Medication

- Pain medication and/or antibiotics will be dispensed as needed.
- Dental home care products are available to help you maintain your pet's oral health.

Professional Teeth Cleaning

Examination

X-Ray

Scaling (above the gum line)

Scaling (below the gum line)

Tooth Polishing