



Pet Health Information from Milford Animal Clinic

DENTAL PROPHY AND POLISH

Dental disease can lead to minor and major life-threatening conditions, including heart and kidney disease. Pets cannot communicate their discomfort as we do, and may show dental pain by changing their eating habits or rubbing their mouth with their paws or on the carpet/furniture. They may drool, chatter, or flinch when touched around the mouth and gums. Keeping your pet in good dental health may add years to its life.

Anesthesia

During a routine dental prophy and polish, your pet will need to be placed under general anesthetics. The teeth are cleaned with an ultrasonic scaler and then polished. The teeth are examined for fractures, mobility, and gum recession. Some teeth may have to be extracted by the doctor.

While under anesthesia, a technician will be monitoring the heart rate, respiration, and membrane color of your pet. The anesthetics we use are safe, but there are always risks associated with anesthetics. The liver and kidneys are the main organs that filter out and eliminate anesthetics from the body. We offer in-house blood work that can be run prior to administration of anesthetics. This helps determine whether or not your pet may have a complication which may put them at a higher risk of undergoing the surgery.

If we do not know the health status of your pet, we recommend doing further testing of the blood. We encourage testing dogs for Heartworm Disease, as a dog that is positive for heartworm disease may have complications from anesthesia. We recommend testing cats for Feline Leukemia and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). A cat that is positive for either of these viruses may have a delayed healing process and cause further complications.

Intravenous Fluid Therapy

The dental should take 20-60 minutes. Anytime an animal is put under anesthesia, the kidneys are damaged. Studies have shown that if fluid therapy is used during the anesthetic time, the amount of kidney damage is minimized. Fluids are given directly in the vein with catheter placement. We recommend fluid therapy for all our surgical procedures to help maximize the time you have with your pet.

Analgesics (Pain Medicine)

After the dental procedure, it may be necessary to restrict your pet's activity for a few days. This may include altering their diet if multiple extractions were done. There will be some discomfort associated with the surgery. In order to help minimize any discomfort and pain, we send home pain medications.

Antibiotics

At the discretion of the doctor, antibiotics may be started three days prior to the dental procedure and continued once your pet has been sent home, to prevent further infection.

Internal and External Parasite Control

Before surgery, your pet should be free from internal and external parasites. If fleas are found during the pre-surgical examination, a mandatory treatment with Capstar will be given at the owner's expense. This medication kills all adult fleas within an hour, but is only effective for 24 hours. This prevents the fleas from crawling into the surgical site and jumping onto other animals while at our facility.

We stock different preventative flea control products for cats and dogs which treat and prevent all life cycles of the flea. For both species, we offer Comfortis, an oral flea preventative that provides protection for a month. The other option is Frontline Plus, a topical product that kills and prevents only fleas and ticks. Frontline Plus is absorbed and distributed throughout your pet's skin coat, but can take up to three days to become effective.



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Specifically for dogs, we also offer Trifexis, which is a similar medication that prevents fleas, heartworm disease, and contains a monthly deworming medication. For cats, Advantage Multi also treats and prevents against ear mites and contains a deworming medication. These products are available for purchase or can be applied or administered upon your request.

Vaccinations

We recommend that your pet be vaccinated annually to provide prevention from bacterial and viral diseases that can be transmitted between other animals, as well as found within their environment. For dogs, these vaccines commonly include DHLPP, Bordetella, and Lyme disease; while cats are generally vaccinated against FVRCP and Leukemia. By state law, all cats and dogs are required to be vaccinated for Rabies.

Microchip

Microchips have helped reunite thousands of pets with their families. We are glad to be a part of this process and recommend placing microchips during the time of your pet's dental.

Contact Us for Details & Scheduling

Please call our office at (574) 658-4126 if you have any questions after reading this form or would like to schedule an appointment for your pet's dental.