

# Dental Cleaning Discharge Instructions



## What did my pet's cleaning include?

Your pet received the same care and attention to their teeth today as you do when you visit the dentist (minus the flossing). This includes sub-gingival (below the gum line) scaling, ultrasonic cleaning, polishing and oral rinse. The doctor may also have recommended other advanced periodontal treatments, dental radiographs and possible extractions of severely diseased teeth.

## Will my pet be in pain?

General anesthesia was used throughout the procedure, and if necessary, your pet was given an injectable pain reliever that should keep him or her comfortable tonight. If extractions were performed, oral nerve blocks were given to help decrease the pain. Your doctor may also prescribe oral pain relievers for you to give at home for the next few days to ensure that your pet is comfortable.

Some degree of discomfort around your pet's mouth is expected.

## What can I expect when I bring my pet home tonight?

Since your pet had general anesthesia today he or she may be groggy, slightly unstable and even drool excessively. If extractions were done, some of the saliva may be tinged with blood but this should not be anything to worry about unless it is excessive.

Many pets are not quite themselves for up to 12-24 hours following anesthetic recovery. Signs such as pacing, panting, whimpering, mild lethargy, and/or restlessness may be noticed after anesthesia. There may also be some degree of discomfort around the mouth, especially if advanced periodontal treatments or extractions were performed.

## Special diet instructions

- Wait at least 2 hours after getting home before feeding
- Feed your pet only 1/4 to 1/2 the normal amount of food that has been soaked in water
- Offer free access to water

Just like people, pets may feel nauseous after anesthesia and vomit if given large amounts of water or food. Tomorrow you may continue food and water as usual unless otherwise instructed by your pet's medical team. Also, refrain from offering any hard toys or treats for 7-10 days after the professional dental cleaning to allow any gum tenderness to fade.

## What should I do for my pet?

### Do not let your pet:

- Go up and down stairs
- Go near pools of water
- Exercise or strenuous activities

### Monitor your pet for the following symptoms:

- Poorly responsive or inability to stand or walk
- Pale/white gums
- Moderate to severe vomiting or diarrhea
- Any difficulty breathing
- If extractions were performed, bleeding from the mouth (some blood tinged saliva is normal)

**If you are concerned or notice that your pet has any of these symptoms, contact your Banfield medical team immediately as they may be signs of post-operative complications. If your Banfield hospital is not open, seek immediate assistance at a veterinary emergency center.**

We recommend the \_\_\_\_\_ emergency hospital whose phone number is \_\_\_\_\_.

Your Banfield doctor may want to check your pet's mouth in 1-2 weeks. Ask us about how to prevent periodontal disease at that time.

For additional information, please contact your Banfield medical team.

