

# Explanation of Dental Procedures



Advances in treating and preventing oral disease have made it possible to substantially increase the quality and duration of our pets' lives. Central Animal Hospital is dedicated to the longevity and comfort of your pet. To that end, we have incorporated the guidelines of AAHA (American Animal Hospital Association) in preparing our protocols for all dental procedures. We have packaged our dental procedures to provide the most comprehensive and thorough service at the most affordable fee. If you are comparing costs with other clinics, be sure that all of these are included. By California State law, dentistry procedures can only be performed by or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Our veterinarians and veterinary nurses have completed additional training in this area and are well-qualified to provide excellent dental care.

## **Included in every dental package:**

- **Pre-Anesthetic Exam:** a complete physical exam on the day of the procedure to look for any conditions that might complicate the procedure or compromise your pet's safety.
- **Pre-Anesthetic Blood Work:** just as in human medicine, this is done prior to any anesthetic procedure to identify unforeseen internal medical disorders. The results of these tests enable us to tailor our anesthetic protocol for your individual pet and reduce the risk inherent in anesthesia. The type of blood work required depends on your pet's age.
- **Intravenous Catheter and Fluids:** intravenous fluid therapy helps to maintain blood pressure, water balance, proper functioning of kidneys and liver, and aids in a faster, more comfortable recovery.
- **General Anesthesia and Monitoring:** general anesthesia is always necessary for dental procedures. It is accomplished with inhaled anesthetic gas that puts your pet into a sleep-like state. We electronically and physically monitor your pet's vital signs the entire time and fine-tune the amount of anesthetic to keep them at just the right level.
- **Dental Scale and Polish:** the heart of the package, and the reason you are here. Your pet's teeth will be thoroughly cleaned, including below the gum line (where 60% of dental disease exists), removing harmful plaque and tartar. Each tooth will be polished with a pumice paste to smooth the microscopic etching that occurs during scaling to help retard re-formation of plaque. We will chart and photograph the teeth, noting any abnormalities or areas of concern.
- **Dental Procedure Report:** You will be given a complete report with before and after photographs, findings and recommendations.
- **Radiographs:** if periodontal disease is present (grades 2 through 4), X-Rays are necessary to determine its extent and to show if affected teeth can be preserved. In the event of an extraction, follow-up X-Rays are also necessary to ensure that no root fragments remain.
- **Sterile Instrument Pack:** the instruments we use are sterilized before every procedure. Your pet will not be exposed to oral pathogens from any other patients.
- **Follow-Up visit with nurse:** one week after your pet's procedure, you will have an appointment with a nurse to review your pet's recovery, discuss home-care strategies, demonstrate tooth-brushing and/or Oravet® application.

## **Additional Items (may be required depending on severity of periodontal disease):**

- **Extractions:** are only recommended as a last resort. This would mean that a pet is actually better off without the affected tooth. Suturing of the site after extraction is also necessary.
- **Radiographs:** if periodontal disease is present (levels 2 through 4), X-Rays are necessary to determine its extent and to show whether affected teeth can be preserved. Following an extraction, X-Rays are also necessary to ensure that no root fragments remain.
- **Injectable Analgesia and Take-Home Meds:** we believe in a multi-modal approach to pain management. If your pet will be having extractions performed, we will administer local anesthetics at the extraction site(s) as well as longer-acting systemic pain medications. You may also be given pain medications to administer at home.
- **Oravet®:** this is optional, but highly recommended. It is a wipe-on sealant gel that significantly retards the formation of new plaque. We apply the first treatment immediately after the dental cleaning, and give you a home care kit for easy weekly applications.