YOUR PET’S ORAL HEALTH PROCEDURE:
An Inside Look at a Professional Dental Cleaning
Hi there! I’m Bruno, I just had my teeth cleaned at Pinellas Animal Hospital, and I couldn’t be happier! Now I can enjoy my favorite treats without any discomfort!

Having your pet’s teeth cleaned will also help protect their vital organs like their heart and kidneys!

Let me show you what an oral health procedure looks like...
We begin with a complete medical assessment by looking at your pet’s eyes, ears and skin and checking his or her heart, lungs, nervous, digestive and skeletal systems for any abnormalities.
To ensure the safety of your pet while under anesthesia, all animals will have a Complete Blood Count (CBC) and a Blood Chemistry Profile (BCP) performed.

**CBC:** assesses the body’s blood cell counts (reds cells, white cells, and platelets) along with its ability to fight infection

**BCP:** assesses the patient’s organ functions (kidney, liver, and pancreatic) helping to identify any signs of kidney or liver disease and other disorders

**Thyroid level:** this blood test is done on all patients over 7 years old. It is also done if they have enlarged thyroid glands or clinical signs of thyroid disease
PLACEMENT OF AN IV CATHETER

An IV catheter is placed in one of your pet’s leg veins. This will be used to administer anesthetic agents, IV fluids and medications.

INTRAVENOUS FLUIDS

With an IV catheter in place your pet can be started on IV fluids. IV fluids are used to maintain normal blood pressure and hydration during the procedure.

Your pet will be placed on a circulating warming blanket and an IV fluid warmer to maintain normal body temperature.
An endotracheal tube is placed to maintain an open airway. Following intubation, your pet is attached to an anesthesia machine, which provides oxygen and a gas anesthetic for the duration of the dental procedure.
1. Dental Machine
2. Anesthetic Monitoring Machine
3. Doppler
4. Blood Pressure Cuff
5. Fluid Warmer
6. Endotracheal Tube
7. Dental Laptop
8. Gas Anesthesia Machine
9. Digital Dental Radiography Unit
10. IV Fluid Pump
11. Patient Warming Blanket Controls
12. EKG Lines
13. Pulse Ox
Your pet’s vital signs are assessed every five minutes.

These include:

- Blood pressure
- Heart rate and rhythm
- Respiratory rate
- Mucous membrane color
- Temperature
- Amount of oxygen in their red blood cells
Once under anesthesia, your pet’s mouth will be rinsed with clorhexidine; a germicidal mouthwash that reduces bacteria in the mouth.
Special hand tools are used to remove any large build up of tartar on your pet’s teeth. Once this is completed an ultrasonic scaler, similar to the one used at your dentist office, is used to eliminate the remaining plaque and tarter. Tartar is removed both above and below the gum line.

This is a very important part of your pet’s procedure and can only be completed in an anesthetized patient.
Dogs have 42 teeth, while cats have 30 and each tooth is assessed individually. A dental probe is used to identify any exposed tooth root bone loss, tooth mobility, cavities and pockets or areas of attachment loss which are an indication of periodontal disease.
Dental radiographs are an essential step in your pet’s oral health procedure. It is the only way we can evaluate the root and bone structure under the gum tissue. Radiographs of each tooth can reveal a number of pathological changes that are not able to be seen during a routine oral exam, which potentially cause your pet discomfort.
FULL MOUTH RADIOGRAPHS: CANINE

Normal

Abnormalities

Tooth Root Abscess

Vertical and Horizontal Alveolar Bone Loss
BEFORE

Canine Tooth

Heavy calculus build up

AFTER

Canine Tooth Extraction Site
FULL MOUTH RADIOGRAPHS: FELINE

Normal

Abnormalities

Tooth Resorption

Tooth Resorption

Super Erupted Canine Tooth
The veterinarian may recommend extracting some teeth. A tooth will only be surgically extracted when it causes pain and there is no other treatment option.

Reasons for Extraction:
- Loose teeth
- Pulp exposure
- Tooth root abscess
- Bone Loss
- Fractured Teeth
- Retained baby teeth
- Resportive lesions (cavities)

Pain Management:
- Local Blocks
- IV Pain Medications
- Go Home Pain Medication
Severe Bone Loss

Before

Tooth Extracted

After

1-9 Routine approach to a surgical extraction
Polishing is an important part of the dental procedure. Polishing on the tooth removes the slight imperfections in the enamel created by scaling. The smoother the tooth surface after a cleaning, the harder it is for plaque to start accumulating.
A fluoride treatment is applied at the end of the complete dental cleaning.

Fluoride helps to:
- Harden the dentin
- Decrease tooth sensitivity
- Reduce plaque build up
During recovery, your pet will be monitored by one of our trained technicians. They will wake up on a comfy cushion, covered by a warming blanket and at which time they will also get their nails trimmed. Once they are awake and have reached optimum body temperature your pet’s assigned dental technician will contact you with an update of their recovery and confirm your scheduled discharge time.
HOME CARE

Keep in mind that an oral health procedure is a \textit{treatment} for periodontal disease; a regular oral home care regimen is \textit{prevention}.

How important is home care? First we should ask:

How quickly will plaque and tartar form?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PLAQUE</th>
<th>TARTAR</th>
<th>SWOLLEN GUMS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TIME</td>
<td>24 HOURS</td>
<td>3 DAYS</td>
<td>2 WEEKS</td>
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We have a number of different products that can help reduce the build up of plaque and tartar. Please ask your dental technician for more information or to demonstrate how to properly brush your pet’s teeth.