

What to Expect Now - Dental

What to expect for reminders

1. 5 days before procedure - an automated email reminder.
2. 1 day before procedure - phone call reminder from MCH.
3. Night before procedure - text reminder around 7pm to withhold food.

What to expect the day before

1. You will receive an email with your consent form.

What to expect the night before

1. No food or treats after 10 pm.
2. Your cat can have water.

What to expect the morning of

1. If your cat is on medications, do not give AM meds, bring them with you.
2. Arrive at MCH between 7:15a - 7:30a.
3. Patient Intake: A Veterinary Technician will go over your cat's plan for the procedure, risks, and review your consent form and estimate. This can take between 10 - 15 minutes.

The Admission/Pre-Op

1. Pre-Anesthetic labwork (if labwork has not been performed within the past 30 days).
2. Pre-Anesthetic Exam.
3. If all normal, we will proceed with procedure.
4. **If abnormal, you will be contacted before going forward. We will not perform the procedure if you cannot be reached.**

The Procedure

1. Your cat will be given a premedication with a morphine derivative.
2. While under anesthesia an intravenous catheter is placed and your cat's blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, body temperature, oxygen saturation, carbon dioxide levels and EKG will be monitored by a trained Technician.
3. Dental radiographs will be taken to look for evidence of periodontal disease and tooth resorption.
4. A trained Technician will perform an ultrasonic scaling and polishing of your cat's teeth.
5. Dr. Simpson will perform a thorough oral exam. She will be looking to see if any tooth extractions are needed.
6. A Technician will contact you if there are any extractions needed and Dr. Simpson will perform the extractions.
7. All extraction sites are sutured closed with an absorbable suture and treated with a laser to promote healing and prevent infection.

Recovery

1. After the procedure, while your cat is waking up, we wrap them in a warm blanket and they are held by a Technician until they are able to eat.
2. We then will hand feed them baby food (unless they have a food allergy). Baby food is bland and easily digestible.
3. Your cat is then placed in a hospitalized suite in the treatment area where they will continue to be monitored as they recover from anesthesia.
4. After they are awake, we will offer them their regular food and continue to monitor them until they've been discharged.

Discharge

1. At discharge, a Technician will go over your cat's procedure and will review your cat's dental radiographs and will show you the actual extracted teeth (if any were extracted). This can take 10 - 15 minutes.
2. If your cat is going home with medications we will go over these instructions and educate you on how to administer these medications. We will also discuss what to look for in case of side effects.
3. You will be sent home with thorough discharge instructions.

At Home... what about complications?

1. Dry food is OK, but your cat may prefer canned food for the first few days after the procedure.
2. The two biggest postoperative complications associated with extractions are pain and infection. Pain and infection will both present as signs of lethargy, anorexia, and hiding. If you notice any of these signs, please give us a call. If your cat is not eating once he/she returns home, please give us a call.
3. Pain is sometimes hard to assess in the cat as they will only show very mild behavioral changes such as hiding, not eating as well, lethargy, or being more aloof.

Follow-up

1. You will receive a phone call the next day to check on your cat.
2. If your cat had any extractions, we would like to see him or her back to check the incision site(s) 10 -14 days after the procedure. Please schedule this at check out on the day of your cat's dental procedure. There is no charge for this visit.