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## Post Operative Instructions for Dental Procedure

- Your pet has had a dental procedure that included a general anaesthetic.
- After an anaesthetic, animals may be unsteady on their feet, and may shake or tremble. Keep them warm and safely confined for 24 hours after the procedure.
- Provide fresh water. Soft food can be offered.
- Hair may have been shaved from a foreleg for blood collection and/or administration of intravenous anaesthetic.
- It is normal for animals to have a cough for 1 or 2 days. This is due to a tube that was passed into their airway to deliver oxygen & prevent fluid entering the lungs.
- The procedure has included ultrasonic scaling to clean tartar away and possibly extractions to remove any loose or infected teeth.
- For the next day or so you may find your pet will:
  - Salivate with a small amount of blood.
  - Lick lips or paw at mouth.
  - Be tender to touch around the mouth and head.

These signs should subside after a couple of days.

- We advise soft food to be given for 3-4 days after a dental, then back to their normal diet. Owners often worry that their pets will have trouble eating if multiple teeth have been extracted but the gums heal well and form a hard surface that functions well for chewing food.
- You may be sent home with medications in tablet or liquid form. **READ THE DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY.** Please let us know if you have difficulty in giving your pet the medication prescribed.
- If bleeding persists, or your pet seems depressed or refuses to eat for more than 2 days, please give us a call.

## Prevention

- Tartar forms on the teeth for many reasons :- individual mouth chemistry, genetics, infections and a lack of chewy food in the diet can all contribute.
- Some dry foods are formulated to reduce tartar development (eg Hill's T/D).
- Sometimes brushing teeth with fingerstall brushes or pet toothbrushes, pet toothpaste or the use of teeth clean additives to their water
- There are also rawhide chews and purpose teeth cleaning chews available such as Greenies.

**If you have problems please contact the Brunker Road Veterinary Centre on 49572269**