



## **Dental scale and polish with extractions after care information**

**This procedure involves surgical extraction of compromised teeth and where required stitching of the gums with dissolvable suture material. An ultrasonic scaler is used to non-traumatically remove plaque from the remaining teeth both above and below the gum line. The teeth are then probed gently under the gum line to determine if there is any deterioration of the tooth supporting structures. Finally, the teeth are professionally polished to smooth the enamel surfaces making it more difficult for bacteria to adhere to the teeth. Whilst routinely performed, it is very important to follow post-dental instructions to allow your pet to heal well. Ongoing dental care at home is also vitally important to slow the progression of dental disease.**

### **Tonight**

When you pick up your pet today you may notice the following:

- Your pet may be more drowsy than normal due to the anaesthesia and pain relief medication administered. It is important that they be kept indoors tonight in a warm, quiet place where they can be monitored and allowed to rest.
- Please only offer him/her some water and half of their regular meal tonight. Soft food only is recommended for at least one week following the procedure. Cubes of cooked meat or cubes of dog food meat are recommended. It is best to avoid rice and mince as these may become lodged in the tooth extraction sites.
- Your pet may have a small cotton band-aid on one of their fore (or occasionally hind) legs where access to the vein was obtained. Please remove this after 2 hours of picking them up from the clinic.
- The gums may appear red or there may be slight bleeding from the gums particularly at the tooth extraction sites. The dissolvable sutures may be visible. It is not normal however for there to be excessive bleeding from the gums or for there to be bleeding or bruising developing elsewhere on the body. These findings could indicate a clotting/bleeding disorder. If this is noted please contact the clinic immediately.

### **Day 7**

- Please revisit the clinic for assessment of healing of the gums, to assess if the normal diet can be resumed and to discuss ongoing dental care.

### **Problems to monitor for**

In most cases with good aftercare no complications will develop. However, it is important to monitor for the following concerns

- Not starting to eat or drink the day following surgery- Vomiting, diarrhoea or straining to go to the toilet.
- Being very dull and listless
- Very pale pink or white gums
- Redness, swelling or discharge on the leg where the band-aid was located

If any of these are noted or you have any other concerns at all please do not hesitate to contact the clinic to chat to one of our nurses or vets. If you have any concerns outside of clinic hours please contact the Animal Emergency Centre in Hallam on 8795 7020.

### **Ongoing dental care at home**

Following a dental procedure it is very important to implement or continue an at home dental care plan to reduce the development of further future dental disease. Brushing of the teeth daily with a toothbrush and paste designed specifically for use by your pet is recommended. However, if your pet is not amenable to this there are other options available including prescription dental diets and treats, medicated chews and dental solutions. These can also all be used in combination. Please discuss with us the best options for your pet.

Please make an appointment for pet's revisit with our reception staff at discharge or by calling us. We all look forward to seeing you in 7 days.

**If you have any concerns please contact the clinic. We are here to help and answer any questions you might have.**