



Veterinary Dentistry

Questions

- **When should my pet see a dentist/oral surgeon instead of a general veterinarian?**

Some patients require specialty management of oral problems that are beyond the scope of a primary veterinarian. During your pet's visit, general anesthesia with monitoring, advanced imaging (digital dental x-rays and/or skull CT scans) with interpretation, thorough oral evaluation with probing and a professional dental cleaning will be performed. These diagnostics provide thorough information for proper treatment options for your pet.

- **Which are signs of oral pain or discomfort?**

Problems such as: dropping food, refusing to play with toys, bad breath, chattering of teeth, rubbing or pawing at his/her face, excessive drooling, facial swelling and loose teeth are ALL signs of oral disease.

- **How often should my pet get a professional dental cleaning?**

Just like humans, every pet is different. Depending on oral problems, your pet might need a cleaning every 6 months, once a year or not as frequent. Dental x-rays are recommended yearly, just like in human dentistry.

- **Do I have other options besides extracting my pet's fractured tooth?**

Yes! Some teeth can be saved by doing root canal therapies or vital pulp therapy depending on the severity of the fracture.

- **Is my pet too old for a professional dental cleaning under general anesthesia?**

There is always a risk with general anesthesia regardless of the age, but age is not a disease. A thorough physical examination and evaluation of medical records will help to take the right precautions before general anesthesia is performed on your pet.

- **Are “anesthesia-free” or Non-Professional Dental Scalings (NPDS) a good option for my pet?**

No. The American Veterinary Dental College does not recommend this type of scaling since they are considered a cosmetic procedure and not for medical management of periodontal disease. Please refer to avdc.org (Companion Animal Dental Scaling Without Anesthesia) for more details.

- **My pet has an oral tumor. Should my pet see an oral surgeon or a veterinary oncologist first?**

Oral examinations, biopsies and resections of a tumor can provide a lot of information before your visit with an oncologist. Oral biopsies and/or resections can help with treatment options during your consultation with an oncologist.

Veterinary Dentistry

Services

- Periodontal Surgery
 - a. Dental extractions
 - b. Gingival flaps
 - c. Oronasal fistula repairs
 - d. Bone grafting and GTR application
-

- Oral Surgery
 - a. Mandibulectomy
 - b. Maxillectomy
 - c. Jaw fracture and facial trauma repair
 - d. Tongue resection
 - e. Oral mass resection
 - f. Gingivectomy
 - g. Cleft palate repair

 - Endodontics
 - a. Root canal therapy
 - b. Vital pulp therapy
 - c. Metal crown impressions and cementations
 - d. Crown reduction
 - e. Composite restoration

 - Orthodontics
 - a. Interceptive orthodontics
 - Removal of deciduous dentition and/or newly erupted adult teeth
 - b. Active orthodontics
 - Applying a proper occlusion restoring device
-