

# Dental Services



When your dog or cat is booked in for his/her dental prophylaxis (cleaning) and/or dental surgical extractions it can be a very anxious time for you, but here at Manzini we strive to ensure every aspect of your pet's journey is safe.

You and your dog or cat will arrive at 8:15 to 8:30 am; you will be met by the reception team. You will be asked about choices; additional options (give yourself at least 15-20 minutes that morning). Remember to send someone who can make choices or have the forms already filled out. Make sure you know whether your dog/cat has eaten or is currently well or specific things you want us to check while your animal is under anesthetic.



## STEP BY STEP PROTOCOL

When your dog/cat leaves you they are weighed, a full pre-anesthetic exam is conducted by one of our doctors. Blood is collected at this point for blood work (a pre-anesthetic blood panel is included with every dental but a comprehensive blood and urinalysis may be required depending on your animal's age and health). If you have opted for clotting factors to improve safety, they will be performed prior to your dog's sedation (these tests can be done up to 1 week prior to surgery).

An anesthetic protocol is chosen for your dog/cat depending on size, age, physical exam, and blood work. After relaxing with sedation, an intravenous catheter is placed and intravenous fluids are started (the fluid type depends on your dog/cat's health and age). These fluids will help your dog/cat keep their blood pressure normal and flush the anesthetic out of their system and they wake up feeling better because they are well hydrated. An induction agent is given to your dog/cat through the catheter to anesthetize them and an endotracheal tube is placed to keep their airway open and then placed on a mixture of gas anesthetic and oxygen. Your pet will also be manually monitored by a qualified staff member.

Now your pet is fully anesthetized, they are connected to a comprehensive monitoring machine which monitors heart rate, respiration rate, blood pressure, oxygen levels, ECG, and temperature.

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## THE DENTAL PROCEDURE

The technicians chart the mouth and the veterinarian performs a comprehensive oral and dental exam. The thick calculus is removed to allow better exposure of the gingival tissue. If any gingival, bone recession large pockets or loose teeth are found digital dental radiographs are taken. In cats it is recommended by The College of Dentists that all cats have full mouth radiographs on their first dental procedure because cats often have hidden pathology. If no disease is found and cats have regular yearly prophylaxis then it may not be necessary to repeat radiographs; if they have hidden disease radiographs may be necessary each year. Yearly dental prophylaxis is recommended for most dogs and cats just as it is for most humans. Plaque and tartar are full of bacteria that create gingivitis which then leads to chronic bacterial stimulation in your pets' blood stream affecting the heart, lungs, liver, kidney and brain. The more bacteria the more stimulation and the more likely your pet will develop disease of one or more of those organs.

If during the oral health exam and after radiographs surgical extraction is necessary, your pet will have local anesthetic nerve blocks placed and you will be called. Make sure you are readily available on the day your pet has his/her procedure. Once the blocks have taken affect then if necessary gingival (gum) flaps are made, the drill is used to split the teeth and remove alveolar bone (bone around teeth). Specialized dental instruments are used to remove each root which can run from text book to definitely not text book. Animals come in all shapes and sizes and therefore, you cannot predict the tooth root shape. Often dogs have hooked or twisted roots and thin jaw bones and very large root to jaw ratio especially in their canine teeth. Cats often have lesions in the enamel of their teeth and roots that slowly get eaten away. Once the teeth are surgically extracted the hole is curetted (scraped), flushed with antibacterial solution, closed with the previously made flaps and dissolvable suture. The gingival (gum) flaps made earlier allow us to stitch the extraction site closed with dissolvable suture.

At this point if any masses are found or there is excessive gingival tissue this is addresses now. Nails are clipped, the anals are expressed, and ears are cleaned or plucked if necessary. If you have chosen to have laser, it is performed on the extraction sites and surrounding areas to reduce pain, swelling and speed up healing time. Once your pets anesthetic is finished they are given 2 pain injections; metacam, a pain killer and anti-inflammatory that last 24 hours and vetergesic, a morphine like drug that lasts 6-8 hours. A technician monitors each animal until the tube is removed. They are kept comfortable and warm with heating bags and blankets.

All pets that have had extractions are sent home with several days of pain control. They must eat soft food and not be allowed to chew for at least 2 weeks. The number of surgical extractions will determine how long soft food needs to be fed and how many rechecks are necessary (at no charge). Pets that have had a professional dental cleaning with no extractions do not require soft food or rechecks. They can begin a comprehensive homecare dental program within 1-2 days of their procedure.

Post dental care varies from house to house but overall we recommend daily brushing and dental care food (Royal Canin or Hills Prescription T/D), if brushing is not available to you talk to our staff about other alternatives. At all times if you are unsure or have any questions please do not hesitate to call our staff for advice.