

Pre Dental Clean/ Surgery Information Sheet

At Templestowe Vet, we understand that bringing your beloved pet into the clinic for a day procedure, and leaving them in our care, can induce a lot of stress for their owners. Most people do not have a firm understanding of what actually happens while their pet is in our care. We hope that by providing you with an outline of a standard day for our patients undergoing a dental procedure, and what you can expect from our team, we can help to alleviate any concerns you may have.

The Day Before Surgery

One of our nurses will contact you the day prior to your pet's scheduled procedure to confirm your admission appointment time and to provide you with 'fasting' instructions for your pet.

The Morning of the Procedure

When you arrive at the clinic on the day of your pets scheduled procedure, you will be greeted by a member of our friendly nursing team. If your beloved pet is a dog, we will assist you in weighing your pet on our scale in reception. For cats we find it less stressful to do this in the consultation room during their admission appointment. You will then be asked to take a seat in our waiting area until your admission appointment is ready to start.

Your Admission Appointment

We conduct admission appointments between 8:00am and 9:00am in the morning. Your admission time is usually booked when making your procedure booking. It is our aim that all admission appointments are conducted by a vet; however there are instances where a nurse may conduct these appointments.

During your pets admission appointment, the vet will assess your pets health status by conducting a physical exam. If your admission is completed by a nurse your pet will undergo a veterinary exam prior to their procedure. If there are any concerns with the results of this exam a veterinarian will contact you to discuss these before proceeding with your pet's procedure..

During your consultation the vet or nurse will review the procedure with you, answer any questions you may have and provide you with a consent form to sign.

Hospitalization/Surgery

Once admitted into hospital, one of our highly trained nurses will take a blood sample from your pet to enable us to run a pre anaesthetic blood panel. Pre-anaesthetic blood work allows us to assess your pet's liver and kidney function; the organs that are responsible for the safe metabolism and elimination of anaesthetic drugs. The results of pre-anesthetic blood tests allow us to tailor our anaesthetic protocols to your pet and ensure the safest outcome.

Once your pets pre-anaesthetic bloods have been taken, your pet will have an IV catheter placed. The IV catheter ensures we have a safe way to deliver anaesthesia to your pet as well as enables us to place your pet on IV fluids before, and during their

procedure to help support their vital organs. Through this IV, we will also administer a sedative prior to their procedure. This sedative helps to reduce anxiety to your pet and allows them to relax prior to their procedure. From this time your pet will be continually monitored until fully recovered from their procedure.

Once relaxed, your pet will be placed under general anesthetic: they will have a breathing tube placed that will secure their airway and allow for the delivery of anesthetic gas and oxygen.

Once under general anesthesia, your vet will begin the dental procedure. There are a number of steps to a dental procedure.

- **Dental x-rays:** A full set of dental x-rays will be taken of your pet's mouth. Dental X-rays are an important part of your pet's treatment as they allow us to get a clear picture of all of the teeth's structure and identify potential issues with each tooth that can not be seen on a visual exam.
- **Removal of plaque and tartar.** After completion of dental x-rays, we will remove the buildup of plaque and tartar in your pet's mouth using an ultrasonic scaler. We use the same instruments and machines that are used in human dentistry.
- **Dental Probing:** Once your pets mouth has been cleaned, the vet will use a special probe to examine each tooth and document and will document any change or concerns noted.
- **Polish:** Your pets teeth will be polished using a special paste and polisher to smoothen the teeth which makes it harder for bacteria to adhere to the teeth and assists in slowing down the progression of dental disease in the future
- **Client Update:** After your vet has completed the first three steps, if they find that any teeth are unhealthy and in need of extraction they will update your estimate and contact you to discuss their finding as well as associated costs and seek consent for further treatment before continuing. It is important for you or someone you trust to be available by phone during the day of their procedure for this reason.
- **Recovery:** Once your pet's procedure is complete and they are in recovery, you will be contacted by your pet's surgical nurse to provide you an update and confirm an appropriate time for your pet to go home.

*It is important to note that our surgery schedule is not determined based on admission time but rather by the type of surgery being performed. Dental procedures are always performed after any sterile procedure such as desexing procedures. This is due to the aerosolization of bacteria that occurs when scaling teeth and increased risk of infection to other patients if we were to perform sterile procedures afterwards.

We aim to start our first surgery of the day at or just before 10:00am. We ask that patients are admitted early to allow us time to properly prepare them for surgery as taking and analyzing bloods, placing IV catheters and drawing up medications and administering them takes time. While your pet is waiting for their procedure to start, they are safe and secure in a warm and cozy bed that has been prepared just for them. They are continually monitored and provided lots of love and reassurance from our staff.

After Surgery

After your pet has recovered from their surgery, while they await their discharge, they are offered a small meal if appropriate to do so. They are also taken out to the toilet to ensure their continued comfort while in hospital.

Discharge Appointment

At your discharge appointment, a nurse or vet will discuss the outcomes of your pets procedure that day. They will go through your pets recovery plan as well as any medications that they may require following their procedure. Additionally you will be provided with a handout outlining aftercare instructions. The nurse or reception team will most often book in your first post operative check when you come to collect your pet.

You can expect a call from one of our team members the day following your pets procedure to check in on their recovery and ensure you do not have any concerns about their care following the procedure.

Please call the clinic if you have any further questions and concerns on 03 9850 5046

