

### **Pre-anaesthetic instructions for your pet: Dental procedure**

No anaesthetic or operation is risk free, but we do everything we can to limit the risk. This leaflet is designed to help you understand how we intend to care for your pet through the process.

#### **Pre-Anaesthetic Blood Sampling**

- Many owners are concerned about their pet having an anaesthetic. In order to minimise any anaesthetic risk, we will clinically examine your pet fully before their operation. However, there may be problems that are not evident physically but may be detected by a pre-anaesthetic blood test. This can help as further investigations may need to be undertaken, or different precautions taken to limit the anaesthetic risk.
- Blood screening profiles are not mandatory. They are available on request and if the Veterinary Surgeon in charge of your pet's care believes them to be necessary.
- These tests are performed in-house prior to the operation and anaesthetic. If the vet has any concerns regarding the results these will be discussed with you prior to your pet's anaesthetic.

#### **Intravenous fluid therapy**

- Intravenous fluids help to maintain the blood pressure of your pet under the anaesthetic, and to replace circulatory volume with any associated blood loss
- All patients can benefit from going "on a drip" during a procedure, especially if it is a long procedure, as dentals can often be
- It is strongly recommended that animals with certain health conditions go "on a drip" while under anaesthesia to help the body through the procedure and prevent conditions getting worse

#### **Admission to the surgery**

- To avoid the risk of food regurgitation during anaesthesia, please ensure your pet has had nothing to eat from 8pm the evening before the operation.
- All pets may have drinking water up until the time of admission.
- Bring dogs in on a lead with a collar and all other pets in a suitable basket or cage. Please give them the opportunity to defecate and urinate before bringing them into the practice.
- On the day of the surgery your pet will be admitted by the veterinary surgeon and nurse performing the procedure and anaesthetic, at a previously arranged time (usually between 8.00 – 8.30am). Please alert us to any recent illness, injury or anything else that concerns you. Also feel free to bring to our attention any problems such as overlong claws or matted hair. We will be happy to discuss these with you and remedy the problem if possible.
- Please allow 10-15mins for this process so that the procedure can be discussed, a consent form can be signed, and contact telephone numbers checked.
- An estimate for the procedure will be given and included on the consent form. Estimates for dental procedures are often wide and can be large as it is impossible for us to tell the extent of the work to be carried out until your pet is anaesthetised and the mouth can be examined fully. Dental procedures are



charged by time (plus post-op dental x-rays if required, see below), and they are often very lengthy procedures due to the amount of work required.

- You are able to phone the surgery at any time during your animal's stay with us. We will phone you after the operation has been completed and to arrange a time for your pet to go home. If you have not received a phone call before 2pm then please do contact us.
- If you do not hear from us, please do not worry. Sometimes if other emergencies present, your pet's procedure may not have been completed straight away.

### **General anaesthetic risks**

There are always risks involved with any general anaesthetic; these risks are low, but nevertheless you need to be aware of them before we undergo the above procedure. These uncommon risks include anaphylaxis (an allergic reaction to the anaesthetic medication), seizures and in extremely rare cases death. Although these risks exist their occurrence is unusual and our experienced team, monitoring equipment and practice protocols are all in place to reduce these risks even further. If you have any concerns, please discuss this with one of the team.

### **Dental Procedure**

Your pet will require a general anaesthetic for this procedure. Your pet will receive a premedication of pain relief and a sedative first. Your pet is then induced to a general anaesthetic and a tube is placed down the windpipe and tied into position to continue giving the general anaesthetic and ensure we have constant access to the patients airway. The back of the throat is then carefully packed to prevent fluid going down the throat or around the tube. Initially, the mouth is examined and probed, and a dental chart is completed. Dental x-rays are also taken at this point (see below). The teeth are ultrasonically scaled above and below the gum line and if extractions are required, a local anaesthetic nerve block is placed to numb the area of the mouth. Any teeth with problems which will not resolve after treatment will be extracted. Some problems which necessitate extraction include chips or fractures, feline odontoclastic resorptive lesions, abscesses, cavities & severe periodontal disease. When teeth have been extracted, often the gums are stitched with dissolvable sutures. The teeth are then polished, and the pet is woken up from the anaesthetic.

### **Dental x-rays**

At Kebir House we strive to provide excellent dental care for our patients, and we are currently the only practice in Northallerton that has a specialist dental x-ray machine. The use of radiography in dental procedures is crucial for us to be able to properly assess the health of your pet's mouth, both above and below the gum line. Examples of the uses of dental radiography include, but are not exclusive to: help in identifying periodontal pockets that may be missed by probing, assess the strength and structure of the jaw in cats and small breeds of dogs with severe periodontal disease, identify roots from previously fractured teeth, identify resorptive lesions in cats. All animals coming in for dental procedures will undergo dental x-rays at the start of their procedure – we do not charge for this pre-operative dental x-ray as we believe it is important all animals receive this as part of the full dental procedure we are undertaking. If an animal requires extractions, the x-rays will be repeated at the extraction sites to ensure there are no complications, for the small fee of £35. If additional work is needed to be done at these sites, the x-rays will be repeated after and will be charged again.



## Possible complications of dental procedures

Any surgery undertaken carries risks, though these risks are small. Below are some risks specific to a dental procedure.

- Infection
  - Mouths are full of bacteria and if teeth have been extracted there is a risk that your pet may get an infection at the extraction site. If the vet undertaking the procedure feels antibiotics are indicated to prevent infection, your pet will be sent home with these
- Delayed wound healing
  - This sometimes occurs where teeth have been extracted and the gum does not heal quickly. This is normally detected at the post-op check with the vet and treatment given as required
- Oronasal fistula
  - This is a communication between the oral cavity and the nose. This often occurs when a very rotten tooth has been present and the bone surrounding that tooth has been weakened. Fistulas are normally detected at the time of the dental procedure and the procedure undertaken such as to help close these
- Bleeding
  - It is not uncommon for there to be some bleeding from your pet's mouth for 24hrs after extractions have been carried out. A slight bit of bleeding is normal and not to be concerned about. However, if there is a lot of bleeding from the mouth, or the nose, please contact the surgery straight away
- Retained tooth roots
  - During a dental procedure with extractions, we try our best to remove teeth whole or in sections. Sometimes, especially if the teeth are weak, the roots can fracture during extraction. If this happens we always try to remove the fractured root pieces, however, this is not always possible. If this is the case we would let you know this has happened and what signs to look out for. Some pets can experience pain where root fragments have been retained, while others may not experience any adverse effects at all. The use of dental radiography after extractions allows us to confirm if root fragments are present and their location to aid in removal

## Post-operative care

- If your pet has had extractions, the vet will send them home with pain relief for a few days afterwards
- Antibiotics will be dispensed if the vet feels these are necessary, to be taken at home
- All animals that have had a dental procedure will be booked for a post-operative check. This is normally 3-5 days after the procedure. There is no charge for this procedure, and this will be with a vet
- If there are any concerns at the initial post-op check, further medication may be dispensed, and further checks booked as required
- If you have any concerns with your pet following a procedure, please call the practice on 01609 772036. As a practice we provide all of our out of hours care, and a vet is available 24hrs a day if required

