

HOW MUCH DO DENTAL PROCEDURES COST?

All of our patients who need a dental procedure start with a health screening to make sure they are a good candidate for undergoing anesthesia. The anesthetics we use are remarkably safe in healthy animals. A physical exam and lab work help us to ensure that we do not put any patient at unnecessary risk. **Physical exams and lab work can range from \$235 to \$446 depending on the age of the patient.**

We choose the appropriate anesthetic based on age, health, temperament, and what type of procedure we'll be doing. To keep your pet as safe as possible, we place an IV catheter so we can administer fluids and any medications that may need to be given quickly while we monitor them under anesthesia. After premedicating with a mild sedative, we give an injectable anesthetic agent to make them sleepy enough to tolerate an endotracheal tube so they can breathe a gas anesthetic for the remainder of the procedure. Heart rate, oxygen saturation, and blood pressure are monitored very closely throughout the procedure, and if necessary are treated to ensure they stay in a safe range. While the patient is sleeping we examine the teeth and the rest of the mouth. Full mouth dental x-rays are strongly recommended as part of the oral exam. All the teeth are cleaned, including under the gums where bacterial infections could lead to periodontal disease. If there are no diseased teeth, we proceed to polishing the teeth. Acupuncture is performed on all patients before they wake up to help them recover from the anesthesia and to help manage their pain. Each patient is monitored closely as they wake up. **If no underlying dental problems are found, most routine cleanings range from \$850 to \$900.**

Removing calculus build up sometimes reveal disease processes such as periodontal disease or resorptive (see photo to right) lesions. If untreated these problems will be a continued source of pain and stress on the body, possibly leading to tooth loss, chronic infection and serious health issues. Dental x-rays help us determine the extent of the disease and whether or not a tooth needs to be extracted. If extraction is necessary, a local nerve block is performed, an injection for pain is given, and pain medication will be sent home. Sometimes an antibiotic injection is necessary. Unfortunately we can't always predict how many teeth will need to be extracted or how long each extraction will take. That is why there is a large range in what it may cost.



Most cleanings with extractions range from \$1600 to \$2500.

Occasionally, severe cases may require full mouth extractions, tissue biopsies, etc. Estimates for these cases are prepared on an individual basis.

When you come in to take your pet home, we will review what we found and show you the x-rays. We'll send you home with full instructions on how to care for your pet's mouth and what to expect while they're recovering from the procedure. We will also review any prescriptions sent home for your pet. Please let us know if you have any further questions about your pet's upcoming dental procedure.

