

## Post-Dental Care Instructions

### **Post-Dental**

Your pet has had an anesthetic procedure and may feel groggy or sleepy afterwards. Some pets will prefer to sleep or avoid their routine after coming home. This is normal and can last for 12-24 hours.

Make sure water is available to your pet at all times. Offer your pet a small meal once settled in at home. Some pets may be uninterested in eating the first night, and this is normal. In most cases, your pet should be able to return to their daily routine the following day.

If your pet has had multiple extractions, a small amount of soft food is recommended. It is normal for the gums to be a little sensitive and even bruised at the extraction site for a few days. The saliva may have a pinkish tinge for a day or two if the gums were irritated and bled a little. If at any time your pet seems to be bleeding excessively from the mouth, call our office.

Make sure to give any prescribed medications as directed and with food. If at any time you are concerned about your pet, call our office.

### **Maintenance**

Teeth Brushing: Plaque tends to accumulate on the cheek side of pets' upper and lower teeth. Brushing your pet's teeth at least twice a week can help maintain healthy teeth and gums. We recommend using toothpaste specially formulated for pets because it is safe for ingestion. Human toothpaste may not be safe. Apply toothpaste to a toothbrush, washcloth, or gauze. Lift their gums to expose the teeth for brushing. Do not put your fingers in their mouths or between teeth. Even the best-behaved pets can accidentally chew on your fingers by mistake! Gently brush or rub all the teeth. It may take time for your pet to get used to having their teeth brushed. Be patient and reward them afterwards.

Dental Treats & Chews: There are many products on the market that will help to prevent tartar build-up. Hill's® Prescription Diet® t/d® is a food that helps slow down tartar accumulation. Our doctors may recommend a specific oral care product for long-term care.