

So – your pet has been advised to have a dental? What’s the deal here?

It’s very simple really.

If we don’t brush our teeth for 6 months or even more, we’re going to have a lot of problems in our mouth, like

- Tartar
- Gum and periodontal disease (infection and inflammation of the gums and bone that surround and support the teeth)
- Halitosis (bad breath)
- Tooth root pain
- Infection into our blood that damages organs (heart valves, muscles, kidneys, liver) This is very real and serious.

Why doesn’t our pet complain?

Well, because they’re hardwired not to emote pain! It’s a survival instinct.

Although our pets do not show pain, 80% of our pet owners come back 4-7 days after a dental repair and say they’re a new animal.

So, how do we not let them get to that point?

It’s easy really! Take advantage of our 6 monthly complimentary dental checks, and we will give the correct advice on how not to get to the point of extractions and periodontal surgery.

If you've been given this handout, your vet has advised that your pet needs a dental.

grad

What do the numbers or grade I've been given mean?

The number you've been given is out of four. 0 means your pet's teeth look fantastic and no further treatment is necessary through to 4 which means your pet is in significant pain, has rotten or rotting teeth, severe gingivitis and needs a dental scale and polish immediately.

Can I reverse this by brushing at home?

Depending on the grade you’ve been given, yes to a point. Daily brushing, when done consistently and well can significantly reduce the need and frequency of a dental scale and polish. If your pet has been graded at a 2 or higher, a scale and polish will still be needed before brushing will be affective.

I understand my pet needs a dental, now what should I do?

Look at the images provided, and the correlating time frames recommended. The best thing you can do for your pet is to speak to our reception team and book a date that works for you and your pet, to have your pets’ teeth cleaned.

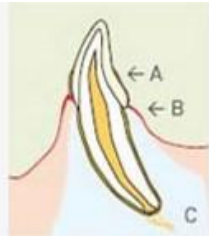
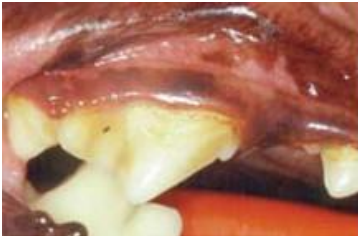
Your pet will need to stay with us for the entire day. Admissions are between 0730am and 0840am and discharge will depend on how your pet recovers from their anaesthetic, how many patients we are seeing that day and what your personal schedule is like.

Grade 0.



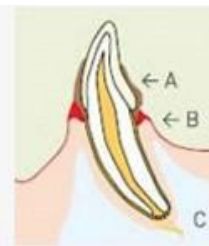
You pets' teeth are clean and healthy! We recommend brushing weekly, using a premium dry dog food (Royal Canin Dental), giving your dog a veterinary approved dental chew (Oravet or Greenies) and the addition of a water additive such as Hexarinse to maintain these beautiful healthy teeth.

Grade 1.



Your pet needs a dental scale and polish in the next 3-6 months. Soft plaque has built up on the surface of the teeth. A small amount of tartar is also present. Tartar was formed when mineral deposits from saliva precipitated in plaque. Bacteria have grown, multiplied and invaded the gum tissues around the tooth causing early gingivitis and red, inflamed gums.

Grade 2.



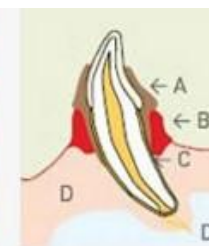
Your pet needs a dental scale and polish within **2 months**. Moderate tartar build up is present. It has acted as a wedge, pushing the gums away from the teeth, causing food, bacteria, and debris to accumulate there. The gums are red, swollen, painful and bleed when touched. Extractions may be needed. At this state, proper dental care is crucial to reverse the progress of dental disease.

Grade 3.



Your pet needs a dental scale and polish within **2-4 weeks**. Plaque and tartar formation is heavy. Pockets of bacteria and debris have accumulated to form further pockets of infection along the teeth. The infection has destroyed tissues around the teeth that hold them in place, and some have become loose. Extractions are needed. The gums appear bright red and bleed freely.

Grade 4.



Your pet needs a dental scale and polish **immediately**. Severe tartar formation and gum disease is present. Toxic debris and inflammation have caused extensive tissue death. Roots are infected, abscessed, and rotten. The thin wall of bone surrounding teeth has deteriorated and many teeth are loose. Extractions are needed. Bacteria may be spreading through the entire body in the blood stream, potentially causing harm to vital organs. Your pet is in severe pain.

I've booked my pet in for a dental, what happens next?



Admission: One of our vets will greet you in the reception area and bring you into a private consult room. Here you will discuss your pet's recent health, ensuring there are no recent issues which would contraindicate having an anaesthetic. The vet will then take your pet's vital signs and ask you when your pet last ate and took any medication.

During the admission process your vet will discuss with you a suitable time for your pet to be discharged. This will depend on how your pet recovers and what your schedule for the day is like.



Sedation and Pain Relief: Your pet will then be taken to the treatment room. Here the vet and nurse will work together to give your pet a sedative and their initial dose of pain relief.

This will help ensure the experience will be as stress free as possible for your pet and ensure recovery is as pain free as possible.

After the sedation has been administered, your pet will be returned to their bed with a warm blanket. We then allow time for the sedation to take effect before the next stage begins.



Blood Collection: Once your pet is sufficiently sedated we will remove them from their bed and return them to the treatment table. Here we will collect blood from the jugular vein and do a blood test.

This test primarily checks kidney and liver function as these are the organs mainly responsible for processing and eliminating the anaesthetic drugs from the body.

If there are any indications that your pet will not cope with a general anaesthetic we will cancel the dental procedure, call you to discuss the findings and then with your permission, investigate the findings further.



Catheter Placement: Our team of nurses will clip and clean a small section of fur on your pet's front leg.

They will then place a catheter. This catheter is used throughout the day to administer intravenous fluids during the general anaesthetic and other medications as required.

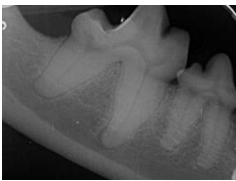


Intravenous Fluid Therapy (IVFT): For the duration of your pet's stay in our hospital, your pet will receive IVFT. We believe it is essential for all pets to receive fluids during their general anaesthetic for a few reasons.

- During an anaesthetic your pet will become very relaxed which can cause their blood pressure to drop. Receiving IVFT can help return their blood pressure to a normal level which in turn will ensure blood flow to their organs is maintained at an optimum level.

- Your pet has been fasted overnight and denied access to water from the morning to minimise the chance of your pet aspirating. Receiving IVFT will ensure your pet remains hydrated.

- IVFT will help your pet recover from the anaesthetic quickly and helps minimise any nausea they may feel.



Dental X-rays: Your pet will then be given an intravenous anaesthetic before they are intubated with an endotracheal tube (this is how anaesthetic gas and oxygen are delivered directly to your pet's lungs).

Before any work begins on your pet's teeth, we take a full set of dental x-rays. This gives your veterinarian a clearer picture of what is going on with your pet's teeth below the gum line.



Scale and Polish: Your pet will have a veterinarian and an anaesthetic nurse for the duration of their dental procedure. The vet will clean away any built-up plaque and tartar, check the viability of each tooth and assess the overall health of your pet's mouth. The anaesthetic nurse will monitor their anaesthetic to ensure your pet is at the correct depth, continually monitor your pet's vital signs, chart any teeth that need to be extracted or have previously been extracted and make any other notes your veterinarian requires.



Before



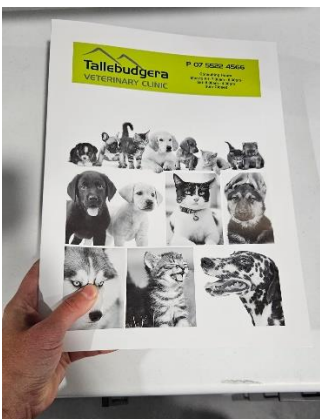
After



Recovery: One of our nursing team will stay with your pet whilst they recover from their anaesthetic. Your pet will be continually monitored, with their vitals being recorded at regular intervals until they have been extubated (removal of their endotracheal tube) and are lifting their head, becoming alert.



Recovery Continues: When your pet is fully awake, they will be taken outside for a short walk. This gives them the opportunity to empty their bladder and bowel and explore in the sunshine for a few minutes before returning to rest and recover in their bed.



Discharge: When you arrive at the clinic to pick up your pet, you will again be taken into a private consult room. Here one of our vets or nurses will discuss with you how the detail procedure went during the day, give you an necessary post operative care instructions and book in your 7 day post op check. It's a great idea to also book your complimentary 6 monthly dental check at this time. You can always change the date closer to the time if it no longer suits.