



Mid North Animal Hospital

Your Pet's Day at the Veterinary Dentist



Thank you for entrusting us with the care of your pet. We understand that anesthetizing your pet for any procedure creates some anxiety, and at Mid North Animal Hospital, your pet's safety is our first concern. All patients will receive a thorough examination and pre-operative blood work prior to their prophylactic dental cleaning and exam. If abnormalities are detected, the doctor will contact you. Please make sure that you are available by telephone throughout the day.

Peace of Mind

We assure you that each pet receives tender care during their hospitalized stay at Mid North Animal Hospital. All of our patients are treated as an individual, which means each pet's treatment protocol has been personally tailored to meet his or her specific needs by our veterinarian. Our standards of care are high and we believe that you have made the right decision in allowing us to care for your pet. We will provide you with a written treatment plan and estimated cost of the procedure at the time you schedule the appointment.

Preparation and Scheduling

We schedule dental cleanings and exams as a drop off procedure performed under anesthesia. These are performed as outpatient procedures, and your pet will typically spend the day with us. We will call the day before to remind you to remove your pet's food and water the evening prior. We ask that you drop your pet off no later than 8:30 AM, but they can be dropped off as early as 7 AM. The morning of the procedure the veterinarian will perform a physical exam and complete any preoperative testing necessary. Your pet will be given a mild sedative and an IV catheter will be placed to allow for fluids to be delivered during the procedure. We will then administer IV anesthetic drugs, insert a cuffed endotracheal tube and continue with gas anesthesia.

www.midnorthah.com

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The Dental Cleaning

Under the direct supervision of a veterinarian, your pet is anesthetized and placed on an anesthetic monitor to closely monitor the vital parameters throughout the procedure. The teeth are carefully cleaned by one of our trained veterinary assistants using a combination of an ultrasonic water scaler and hand instruments.

The Oral examination

After the teeth are cleaned and polished, the doctor will perform a complete oral examination, which includes inspection, evaluation, and charting of each tooth and surrounding gum tissue. During the comprehensive examination, the doctor may detect fractured teeth, cervical line lesions (erosions in the enamel), gingival masses and/or loose teeth. Full mouth x-rays are then completed. These images allow the veterinarian to evaluate the tooth below the gum line as well. The results are correlated with the exam findings to develop a comprehensive treatment plan individualized to your pet's dental needs.



Extractions or Additional Services

The dental exam and radiographs may reveal the need for advanced periodontal treatment or extractions. Our goal is to save teeth, not extract them. If possible, the veterinarian will perform deep root planing (scaling) and the application of a periodontal gel to rebuild the periodontal attachments of the tooth involved. Unfortunately, if the prognosis for saving the tooth is poor, it is sometimes in your pet's best interest to have an extraction performed. At Mid North Animal Hospital, each extracted tooth is surgically removed by the veterinarian. The oral surgery begins with a nerve block to desensitize the area and provide additional pain relief to your pet upon waking. Then, two small gum tissue incisions are made to expose the tooth's roots. Using a high speed dental drill, the roots are sectioned into individual pieces. With a hand held dental elevator, each root is removed. The incision is closed with dissolvable sutures.

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Pain Management

At Mid North Animal Hospital, we take the comfort of our patients very seriously. We include oral nerve blocks and give a general analgesic injection to all our patients requiring extractions and advanced periodontal procedures to prevent them from experiencing pain upon waking.

Updates During Your Pet's Stay

During your pet's hospitalization, please do not hesitate to call for an update. The veterinarian will call you once your pet is recovered from anesthesia to provide you with details of the dental procedure and provide information on scheduling a release appointment. During this call, your pet's veterinarian will indicate any additional procedures which were performed, and will let you know if pain medications or antibiotics will be provided at release or if sustained release products have already been administered. **We estimate the cost of these medications in the treatment plan provided when you schedule.**

Discharge

Most patients are discharged between 4pm and 7:30pm. The doctor will provide a more accurate time during the post-operative call. Occasionally, a dental patient with significant oral surgery may stay overnight, but this is rare. Your scheduled discharge consultation will be with a head assistant or the doctor to review the discharge instructions and any questions you may have. Please anticipate 10 to 15 minutes to review and discuss discharge instructions with the head assistant or the doctor.

Follow-up Care

If any extractions or oral surgery were done, we will ask you to schedule a follow up appointment at no charge. This visit allows the doctor to evaluate your pet's healing process and ensure that everything is going well. In the event additional medication is required or a problem is noted, then a charge may be incurred. During the visit we will review home dental care with you including daily brushing of your pet's teeth, tartar control diets, treats and enzymatic products designed to reduce plaque and bacteria.

We consider it an honor to treat your pet.

Please do not hesitate to ask any questions.

Thank you from the Doctors and Staff of Mid North Animal Hospital

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