



Blue Springs

Animal Hospital & Pet Resort

"It's All About Caring"



DENTAL PROCEDURES

Dental tartar is composed of food particles, minerals, and bacteria. In the early stages of accumulation, the material is soft (plaque), but it gradually hardens and adheres to the teeth to form yellowish-black tartar. Continued accumulation causes gingivitis (infection of the gums) and periodontal disease.

Periodontal disease is a bacterial infection of the structures that cradle the teeth in their normal position. This infection causes teeth to loosen and eventually fall out. Additionally, the mouth becomes a dangerous source of infection as the bacteria gain access to the blood circulation and cause serious infection of the internal organs. The heart, kidneys, and liver are especially susceptible to infection originating from infected teeth and gums.

During a dental cleaning, the tartar will be removed from the teeth and the infection will be treated. If any teeth are fractured, badly damaged, or decayed to the point that they will be a continued source of infection and pain for your pet, we will recommend extraction or other dental procedures.

The night before the dental procedure your pet will need to be taken off food at 8:00 p.m. The morning of surgery, the patient will receive a thorough preanesthetic physical exam by one of the doctors. All potential physical problems are thoroughly discussed with you by the doctor at that time. A preanesthetic blood screen will be suggested for your pet at this time if recent blood work has not already been done. This allows us to evaluate your pet's kidney and liver function as well as blood clotting ability. This extra procedure allows us to be sure your pet is healthy "inside and out" and that he/she will be a safe candidate for surgery.

Dental procedures are performed with your pet placed under general anesthesia. Your pet sleeps painlessly through the entire operation. At Blue Springs Animal Hospital your pet's safety is our primary concern. With several different anesthetic choices in our hospital pharmacy, we can custom design an anesthetic regimen for your pet's specific health needs. Our anesthetic agent (Isoflurane) is reported to be ten times safer in all patients than other anesthetic agents.

At Blue Springs Animal Hospital, we are committed to making your pet as comfortable as possible during their procedure and recovery. We utilize the very best pain management medications and techniques available. While your pet is in the hospital their pain will be managed with injectable medications. We will send additional medication home to keep them comfortable in the few days after their dental procedure.

Routine dental cleanings and dental xrays if needed are performed by a trained and licensed veterinary technician under the supervision of one of our veterinarians. Dental extractions, oral surgery, and other dental procedures are performed by the attending doctor. Our dental equipment includes ultrasonic cleaners, polishers, drills, dental instrumentation, and a dental Xray unit.

Blue Springs Animal Hospital & Pet Resort
1201 W. 40 Highway Blue Springs, MO 64015
(816) 229-1544

www.bluespringsanimalhospital.com

The operating suite at BSAH is equipped with audio patient cardiac and respiratory monitors, blood pressure monitors, gas anesthetic machines, oxygen, IV Infusion pumps, CO2 laser, electrocautery, emergency drugs, and a competent, caring staff of licensed veterinary technicians.

Very little care is required for recovery at home after dental procedures. If a diet change is required, you will be given specific instructions. Often your pet will be groggy and sedate for 24-48 hours afterward due to the pain medications used to make your pet comfortable – this is not an indicator that your pet had any problems with anesthesia!

After your pet has had the teeth cleaned, we recommend some form of home care to prevent the tartar from accumulating again too quickly. The best method of prevention is to brush your pet's teeth every day with a toothbrush and a pet dental toothpaste. (Do not use human toothpaste.) Brushing must be done every day to have significant benefits. Other options include putting your pet on a tartar control diet such as Science Diet T/d or using dental chews such as CET chews on a daily basis. If you have questions or would like a demonstration of how to brush your pet's teeth, please ask!

We strive at Blue Springs Animal Hospital to perform dental procedures with the highest standards set forth by the veterinary profession. If you have any other questions about the procedure or your pet, please don't hesitate to ask our staff or one of our doctors. Whenever you are ready to schedule your pet's dental procedure, just call. Our receptionist will be happy to set up the appointment.