

What is a “Dental”?

More correctly, it is an “Oral Cleaning and Assessment”. Just like us, animals need dental care to eliminate pain and promote optimal health. Animals do not complain about a tooth ache or other mouth pain until the condition is so severe that drastic measures are needed to treat the problem. To assess an animal’s mouth and clean their teeth, general anesthesia is required. Most people do not enjoy having their teeth cleaned and probed, our companions will not tolerate it. It would be unsafe, inadequate and inhumane to attempt to probe or clean their teeth without anesthesia.

There have been tremendous improvements in dental care for animals, and performing general anesthesia. San Juan Veterinary Clinic provides exceptional dental care, with patient safety as our first priority. Our anesthetic protocols and safety measures far exceed those of most veterinary practices and meet or exceed the AAHA standards. We use IV catheters and administer fluid therapy during the procedure and the patients are monitored extensively. We even have warm water blankets to help keep them comfortable.

How do we know our companions have dental disease?

More than 70% of animals have some degree of dental disease, but only the extremely severe patients may ever show any signs of their pain. If your pet has bad breath, discolored teeth, red gums, tartar or teeth that are worn down; they have significant dental disease. To assess the extent of their dental disease, careful examination, gingival probing and dental radiographs are required.

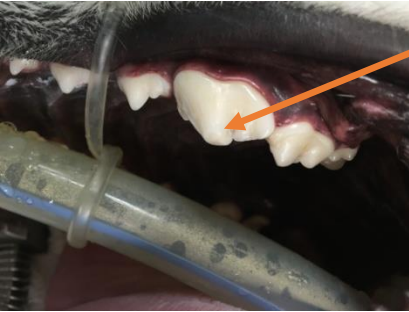
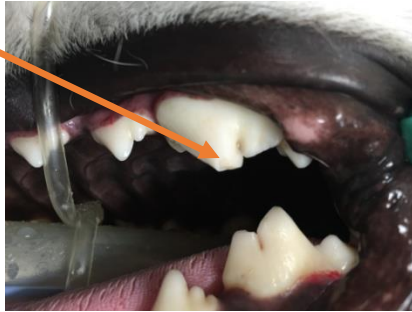
How much will an Oral Cleaning and Assessment cost?

As with our own dental care, it is impossible to provide an adequate treatment plan without assessing the mouth and teeth first. We will provide an estimate for anesthesia and monitoring, dental scaling and polishing; followed by an oral assessment and treatment recommendations. Until a thorough oral exam is performed and necessary radiographs are taken it is impossible to know what treatment is necessary, if any. After the oral assessment we can provide a more accurate treatment estimate. When your companion comes in for an Oral Cleaning and Assessment, it is imperative that we be able to reach you by phone, immediately, during the procedure. That way we can inform you of any concerns and discuss treatment options and potential expense.

Can I choose what treatments are performed?

Yes. After cleaning the teeth and assessing the mouth, the choice to treat or not to treat is yours. Our job is to provide you with our assessment and recommended treatments. You to choose what treatments you would like to have performed. Our goal is to eliminate pain and to improve your companion’s health. We will give you the information to help you decide the best course of action for you and your companion. You can also give us consent to perform certain treatments when admitting your pet for the procedure, this can expedite the entire procedure and help lessen time under anesthesia.

Tooth Fracture



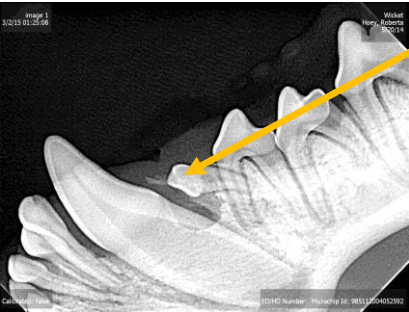
Bonded Sealant Applied

Heavy Tartar

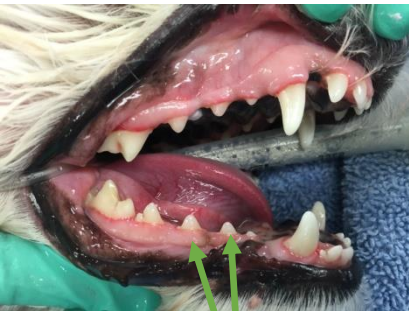


Fractured tooth visible after cleaning with open pulp, very painful.

Missing Tooth



Impacted tooth with a cyst destroying the jaw bone.



This is why x-rays are performed even on "normal" teeth.

Dissolving root tips of clinically "normal" teeth.