

Home Care Notes for _____

Today I was in hospital for an Anaesthetic and Dental without extractions with _____ extractions

To ensure that I have a smooth and speedy recovery, please take note of the following guidelines:

Rest and Confinement

- it is normal for me to be subdued, sleepy, anti-social and not quite myself for up to 24 hours following an anaesthetic
- drowsiness will make me more vulnerable, wobbly and anxious, so confinement is for safety reasons
- keep me indoors overnight, preferably caged, to limit activity and access to hazards and interference from pets or kids
- I will need a soft, clean bed at floor level, in a warm, draught-free, dark and quiet room with the windows and doors closed

Things to Note

- I may develop a mild cough from the tube inserted to assist with breathing during surgery, this will disappear in a few days
- I may also have a small area of clipped fur on my leg and/or neck where an IV catheter was inserted or blood was drawn
- after extractions, some bloody drool can be expected, this can be cleaned externally but no mouth flushing should be done

Eating and Drinking

- ensure that clean, fresh water is within easy reach at all times
- tonight, if I am alert, give me a small quantity of SOFT food - I may refuse food or vomit after eating as result of the drugs
- should be done in a confined space, a litter tray on the floor for cats and outside, supervised, on a lead for dogs
- changes to toileting frequency and consistency can be expected for 24 hours

Mouth Care - Post Extractions

- if I had extractions, feed me soft chunky food (casserole steak not mince) for the next 10 days
- soft chunky food supports healing as it prevents small pieces packing into the gums where teeth were extracted
- once my gums have completely healed I can go back to my normal wet or dry food
- it's important to check my mouth daily for any excessive bleeding, swelling or bad smell
- sometimes sutures will be placed (large extractions), these are dissolvable and you will be advised of this at discharge
- for 2 weeks I am not allowed any chew toys, bones or any tug-of-war games
- running, jumping and playing must be restricted following extractions and no swimming is allowed until gums are healed

Medication

- please read labels carefully to ensure meds are given as instructed regarding dosage, frequency and with or without food
- if given with food, ensure that the meds are ingested completely, not eaten by other pets and not expelled with vomit

Revisits:

- please bring me in for a free post op check in _____ days _____

To maintain mouth health, we suggest Royal Canin Dental or Hills Science T/D Diets with biscuits designed to reduce the build-up of plaque and tartar. Dental Treats, Aquadent Breath Freshner and Pet Toothpastes are also recommended.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO CONTACT THE CLINIC FOR ADVICE OR AN APPOINTMENT IF:

Your pet is uncharacteristically lethargic, grumpy, agitated, anti-social or in obvious pain

Your pet has excessive vomiting or diarrhoea or is still refusing food and/or water after 12 hours

The wound is bleeding, weepy, swollen, red, gaping or the sutures or bandage have been tampered with

You have difficulty administering medication

You have any other concerns or questions

Thank you for trusting us with the privilege of caring for your pet.