

# Cerbat Cliffs Animal Hospital

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## Dental Prophylaxis/Treatment Information

A routine dental prophy (prophylaxis) is performed to prevent dental disease. This is recommended yearly, or every 2-3 years depending on your pet's in-home dental health care, diet and genetics. Even in the best of circumstances, your pet may have hidden subgingival tartar/disease and require a prophy. A routine dental prophy requires antibiotics one week before and after the dental, and on the day of the procedure CCAH requires a physical examination, pre-anesthetic blood screening, an IV catheter, premedications, anesthetic induction, maintenance and monitoring, dental scaling and polishing. Your pet may also require IV fluids during the procedure (depending on your pet's health status) and we recommend veterinary sealants be applied to your pet's teeth after cleaning.

A **pre-anesthetic blood** screen is especially important before a dentistry as dental disease can lead to kidney, liver, lung and/or heart disease and blood screening, along with a physical examination, can assist the doctors in evaluating your pet's internal organ systems and allow the most appropriate anesthetic protocol to be chosen for your pet.

**Premedications** will be given to calm/sedate your pet, reduce stress and offer pain control (if needed). An antibiotic will be given to provide a defense against bacteria entering the bloodstream as the subgingival tissues are probed and the teeth scaled under them.

**General anesthesia** is induced, maintained and monitored with the safest possible protocol for your pet while also providing comfort, relaxation, warmth and pain control. Most pets are usually awake within minutes of finishing the procedure and most pets are relatively normal at the time of discharge. However, some pets are more sensitive to anesthesia and sedation and may continue to be more sedate than normal for about 24 hours after the procedure.

During the **prophylaxis**, our technicians and doctors will use an ultrasonic scaler to remove tartar from the teeth, probe around each tooth to determine if there is any periodontal disease and polish the teeth with a fluoride paste to help delay the recurrence of plaque and tartar. The veterinarian will also perform dental radiography to evaluate the health of each tooth and assist in determining the need for potential extraction.

The doctor will treat or extract any tooth that is diseased or otherwise causing pain. Tooth extractions will require additional time, instrumentation and skill. The charge for tooth extraction depends on the type of tooth and difficulty level in removing the tooth. Gum disease will also be treated if indicated. If gum tissue looks questionable to the doctor, a biopsy will be recommended to rule out a cancerous tumor. An antibiotic gel may be applied to the gum line if there is a concern about bacterial pockets under the gums.

If you elect **sealants (SANOS)** to be applied, the doctor will do so at the end of the dental procedure. You will also be given a home kit to reapply (touch up) the sealants weekly and taught how to do so at the time of discharge.

Additional pain medications will be administered via an injection in the post-operative period and oral medication may be administered for at-home use if the doctor deems it necessary.

As with any anesthetic and/or surgical procedure, **we will call you as soon as your pet is in recovery.**

**CCAH also offers several dental products** that we highly recommend for use at home in between dental prophylaxes in order to maintain good dental hygiene. These products include toothbrushes and special flavored toothpastes for your pet (please don't use toothpaste for humans!), dental treats and chews, dental/mouth rinses and sprays, and a diet made specifically for tartar control (Hills Science Diet t/d) which can be fed as a treat or as a complete diet (and also helps with weight loss). Please ask for more information on any of these products.

After reading this form, please ask if you have any further questions or concerns. Next, please fill out and sign at the bottom, and return this sheet with you at the time of your pet's dental check-in.

**Would you like veterinary sealants applied to your pet's teeth?** Yes\_\_ No\_\_

**I, as owner, or a representative of the owner, agree to allow the doctors and technicians to perform the above described procedures including dental prophylaxis, any dental extractions and any gum disease treatment as the doctor deems necessary.**

**Pet's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Owner Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_