



# Dental Procedures: An Aftercare Guide for Pet Parents

## What To Expect

Your pet may not act like themselves for a few hours after their dental procedure. You may also notice the following symptoms:

- A sore, sensitive, or swollen mouth
- Grogginess or sleepiness from anesthesia for one to two days
- Discomfort
- Diet changes due to lack of an appetite

## How Long Will It Take For My Pet To Recover?

Your pet's recovery time depends on the procedure they had. If they had a routine teeth cleaning, recovery takes about 24 to 48 hours. If they had any tooth extractions or a secondary skin mass removal, recovery may take 10 to 14 days.

Call your vet if your pet is rubbing their face, is lethargic, isn't eating or drinking, or is showing other concerning symptoms.

## When Can I Brush Their Teeth Again?

Post-procedure, your pet's mouth needs time to heal properly. Your vet may recommend avoiding tooth brushing for a few weeks, and will advise when to restart.

## How Do I Manage Their Post-Procedure Pain?

Your vet may prescribe medications to keep your pet comfortable—these could include pain medications, antibiotics, and possibly anti-anxiety meds if your pet is anxious after surgery.

They will advise you about dosage, how to administer the medication, and how often to give it to your pet. **Do not give your pet any medication or supplement that has not been approved by your vet first. Human pain medications may be toxic to pets.**

## When (And What) Should I Feed My Pet After Their Dental Procedure?

Provide cool, fresh water often—don't restrict your pet's water intake after surgery.

It's important to only provide them with wet food for the next five to seven days, to prevent discomfort and reduce potential injury to gums, teeth, and stitches. If your pet had a tooth extracted, do not offer them any tough treats, chew toys, or dental chews for the next five to seven days.