

Complete Oral Health Assessment and Treatment



We have recommended a Complete Oral Health Assessment and Treatment (COHAT) for your pet. We understand that this can be overwhelming to consider. However, we believe that good dental care is essential for a healthy mouth and a longer, pain-free life. It's our responsibility to offer you the best techniques available to meet these goals.

COHAT requires general anesthesia because pets simply don't let us work in their mouths when they are awake. This means that your pet will be asleep during the entire process. General anesthesia requires a two-stage approach.

I. Pre-Anesthetic Workup

Some problems or concerns may not be readily found by a physical exam. Lab tests help us determine if there are any problems with the body's organs (including the heart). These tests allow us to customize the safest anesthesia for your pet's individual needs.

Based on the age of your pet or other conditions, we will recommend a bloodwork panel. This will provide information on the liver, kidneys, electrolytes, and blood cell counts. An EKG (electrocardiogram) is performed before anesthesia to check the heart's rate and rhythm. A veterinary cardiology service reviews the EKG to let us know if there is any heart-related reason we should not anesthetize your pet.

Once your pet is under anesthesia, we continuously monitor blood pressure, breathing, heart rate, temperature, oxygen levels, and an EKG. Once your pet is safely asleep, the dental procedure begins.

II. COHAT / Oral Surgery

- 1.) Dental Charting: We carefully chart the entire mouth and throat, taking note of the condition of the teeth and gums, missing teeth, and any other abnormality.
- 2.) Ultrasonic Scaling: We use a special ultrasonic tool to safely clear away plaque and tartar above and below the gumline.
- 3.) Polishing: Polishing paste restores the tooth enamel to a smooth, shiny surface.

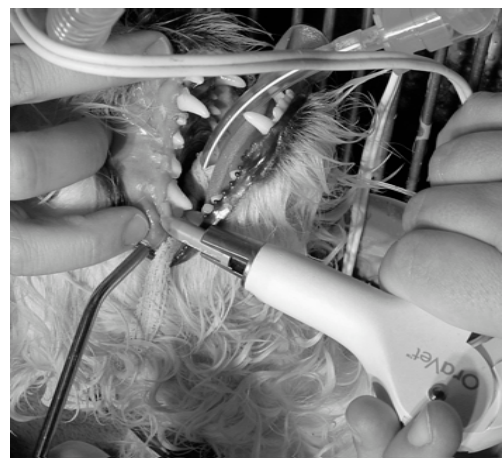


4.) Fluoride Treatment: Fluoride foam is applied to strengthen teeth.

5.) Radiographs: A COHAT includes x-rays of the mouth to ensure that the roots of the teeth and the jaw bones are healthy. Many conditions that require treatment are not visible without x-rays!

6.) Any Necessary Surgery: If a tooth needs to be surgically extracted or periodontal therapy applied, these procedures are done next. Nerve blocks are done to minimize pain during these procedures. Additional medication is used post-operatively to ensure your pet remains pain-free throughout recovery.

7.) Oravet: You may elect to have Oravet applied (dogs only). This is the last step before recovery from anesthesia.



Care at Home

After going home, your pet may need additional pain medication or antibiotics. Our staff will clearly explain what you need to do.

Once your pet has a clean, healthy mouth, we will instruct you on the steps you need to take with brushing, Oravet, enzymatic chews, Healthy Mouth, oral rinses, or special dental foods to keep that smile beautiful!