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## **Veterinary Dental Center of Tulsa's Steps for a Comprehensive Oral Health Evaluation and Treatment**

- A preanesthetic physical examination and preoperative laboratory tests are performed and/or reviewed. This helps to assess the anesthetic risk and helps us determine our anesthetic protocol.
- An IV catheter is placed in a leg to administered anesthetics drugs, pain medication, antibiotics (when indicated) and IV fluids during the procedure. IV fluid therapy helps to maintain blood pressure and improves circulation. There may be a bandage on your pet's leg that can be removed when you get home.
- General anesthesia is used and a breathing tube is placed to help your pet receive oxygen during the procedure. The endotracheal tube also prevents fluids, bacteria and debris from being aspirated into your pet's lungs. A mild cough may be noted for a few days after the procedure.
- Your pet's vital parameters are monitored and a warming device is used during the procedure. Monitoring body temperature, respiration, oxygen saturation, end-tidal CO<sub>2</sub>, heart rhythm, and blood pressure help us to know if any adjustments need to be made during the anesthesia for your pet's safety and rapid recovery.
- Intraoral radiographs (x-rays) are taken to evaluate abnormal findings below the gum line.
- An ultrasonic scaler is used to scale the teeth supra- and subgingivally. Cleaning the teeth below the gum line is the most important part of the procedure and cannot be performed properly on an awake animal.
- The teeth are polished using a dental prophy paste.
- The mouth is irrigated to remove polishing paste and other debris that collects below the gum line.
- An anti-plaque substance is applied. We may recommend a homecare product to be applied weekly at home.
- Each tooth is evaluated for periodontal pockets and abnormal findings are recorded on a dental chart.