



INTRACOASTAL WEST
VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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DENTAL CONSULTATION: <ANIMAL>, <DATE>

Thank you for entrusting Drs. Green and Marsigliano and the veterinary care team at Intracoastal West Veterinary Hospital with your pet's upcoming surgical procedure.

PRIOR TO THE SURGERY DATE:

Prior to your pet's anesthetic procedure, we will be performing pre-anesthetic blood testing to identify any abnormalities in your pet's internal organ and blood cell function that may make this procedure riskier for them. By identifying potential problems in advance, we can address them or adjust our anesthetic protocols to keep the procedure the safest possible for <animal>. We prefer to do this blood testing 2-7 days in advance of the procedure so the results are relevant and we can discuss any concerns ahead of the procedure.

If your pet recently had their annual exam including bloodwork, we may not need to repeat this bloodwork prior to anesthesia.

WHAT TO EXPECT THE DAY OF THE SURGERY:

You should feed <animal> approximately a third to one-half of the normal amount of food they eat for breakfast on the morning of their procedure. We want them to have a small amount of food in their belly but not feel bloated, to help reduce nausea and the risk of aspiration pneumonia that can be associated with anesthesia.

Drop off is between **8:15-8:30am**. Please arrive promptly and our technicians will check your pet in. Please let us know if you have any additional questions or concerns at this time.

We will then administer pre-medications to <animal>, which will include a combination of pain medications, sedatives, and an anti-nausea medication that helps fight nausea associated with anesthesia. By using a combination of drugs acting in different ways, we can more effectively control and even prevent your pet from experiencing pain and discomfort during and after their procedure.

We will place an intravenous (IV) catheter in one of <animal>'s legs, through which your pet will receive additional anesthetic medications and fluids to keep them hydrated and support their blood pressure during the procedure. You will see a shaved patch and there can be minor



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bruising from the catheter that will resolve on its own in a couple days, and the fur will grow back.

We generally have two vet techs in addition to the doctor ensuring your pet's safety during anesthesia. During the procedure, we will be monitoring all of your pet's vital signs, including heart rate and rhythm, blood pressure, oxygenation, carbon dioxide production, and temperature. There is always an inherent risk associated with anesthesia, including the patient's heart stopping i.e. death, but monitoring all these vitals carefully, we can address any abnormalities promptly to keep your pet safe.

While your pet is under anesthesia, we will perform dental radiographs and periodontal probing and charting, which may identify diseased teeth that may appear normal above the gumline. It is possible that these teeth, which may need to be surgically extracted, were not identified on your estimate. Please note that your estimate is our best guess at their treatment plan, and for this reason we ask that you keep your cell phone handy throughout the day your pet is with us in case we need to call you with an update and for permission to address these additional problems. If we are unable to get a hold of you, we will follow the estimate, which could result in the need for an additional procedure at additional cost.

Like all of our procedures here, dental procedures are performed as out-patient procedures so your pet will **not** need to stay in the hospital overnight. We will call you once <animal> is waking up and give you a more precise time we expect them to be ready to go home, but it is generally in the afternoon, but will depend on how quickly they wake up after the procedure.

AFTER THE PROCEDURE:

You can expect <animal> to still feel a little groggy and have an unsteady gait when you take them home, but all patients can be offered their dinner. They may not have a full appetite that evening, but typically by the next morning are overall back to normal.

Your pet will go home with anti-inflammatory medication to reduce pain and swelling. Depending on the procedure, they may need to wear an Elizabethan (cone) collar for approximately two weeks after their surgery to prevent them from messing with their surgical site as it heals. We may also recommend keeping your pet rested and limiting activity to allow proper healing. Please let us know if you think it will be difficult to keep <animal> calm during this healing process so that we can prescribe appropriate sedatives and offer additional strategies to set them up for success.



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We offer complimentary rechecks relating to the procedure, so if you have any questions or concerns about how things are looking or how your pet is acting, do not hesitate to contact us. Additional medications or treatments of complications following the procedure, including if your pet messes with their incision, are not included in the estimate you have been provided.

If you haven't already set up the appointment for <animal>'s procedure, give us a call or shoot us an email so we can find a day that works best for you.

Thank you again for entrusting us with the care of your pet.