



Pet's Name: _____

Date of dental procedure: _____

We ask that your pet has nothing to eat after 9.00pm the evening before the dental procedure. However water can be given.

Please bring your pet to the practice between 8.15am - 8.30am on the morning of the procedure. One of our nurses will go through our consent form with you and answer any questions you may have about your pet's procedure.

Please ensure you bring up-to-date contact details with you, as we may need to contact you during your pet's stay with us.

Dental procedures

Dental work on pets is always carried out under **general anaesthetic**. At Hillside Vets we use modern anaesthetic agents in a safe combination, as well as ensuring that your pet remains as pain free as possible. If we are concerned about your pet's general health we may recommend a blood test and/or a 'drip' (intravenous fluids) during the operation to make the procedure as safe as possible. We use intravenous fluids routinely in all our elderly patients as it is proven to improve anaesthetic safety and recovery time. All patients will receive a full pre-operative health check after they have been admitted for the day and before an anaesthetic is given.

At Hillside any dental surgery or extractions are carried out by one of our vets using modern dental equipment and techniques, similar to what you would see at your own dentist. We also have an in-house dental specific X-ray machine, allowing us to take detailed pictures of your pet's teeth. Our vets have all attended advanced study courses in dentistry to ensure they are using the most up-to-date techniques and treatments.

Following the procedure, your pet will be discharged by one of our nurses later the same day. They will discuss all aspects of the dental work undertaken, explain any medication that your pet has been given and if there has been an extraction will show you a dental chart of your pet's mouth illustrating what the problems were and what work has been undertaken. Our clients find this particularly helpful as many pets won't let you have a look for yourself! We also send your pet home with a complimentary tin of soft food for that evening, in case their mouth is sore, which they seem to rather enjoy.

The following week you will receive a free follow-up appointment – this will enable us to check that your pet's mouth is healing properly and gives you the chance to ask any further questions. This appointment will also include advice on what you can do to prevent further dental problems in the future. This includes tooth-brushing, special dental diets and appropriate chews/toys etc.

Some Pet Insurance companies will cover for work that is associated with dental problems/disease; it's always worth contacting your insurance company to discuss this with them *before* any treatment is given. There will, however, be an excess that you will be required to pay.

Remember, if you have any concerns about your pet's teeth or gums, it is always better to book an appointment and have them checked out rather than just leaving it – **prevention is better than cure.**

Dental care

Studies have shown that only four out of 100 dental problems in pets are detected by their owners and brought to a veterinary surgery for this reason alone. The other 96% are detected by your vet at a health check or when your pet is taken to the vets for another reason.

It is thought that over 7.6 million cats and dogs in the UK are suffering from undiagnosed toothache – by the age of three, seven out of 10 pets will have some dental disease.

Animals do not express pain in the same way that humans do and by the time it's obvious to you that your pet has a sore mouth, the problem will have been there for some time.

Left untreated, in addition to the pain and discomfort your pet experiences from dental disease, there is the possibility of other complications with their kidneys, liver and heart, particularly in elderly pets that may have underlying problems already.

Dental disease is 100% preventable – all that is needed is good home dental care from the start. Once dental problems have developed, they are incurable and all you can do is 'manage' them and reduce the discomfort felt by your pet.

For more information on pet dental care, you can visit our website at www.hillsidevets.co.uk or call us on 01202 698899.