



Anasazi Animal Clinic, Inc.
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"Helping pets live longer . . . healthier lives!"

Advanced Dentistry & Oral Surgery

- ◇ Oral Exam and Prophylaxis
- ◇ Intraoral Digital Radiography
- ◇ Occlusal (Bite) Evaluation
- ◇ Orthodontics
- ◇ Periodontics
- ◇ Maxillofacial Surgery
- ◇ Fracture Repair of the Jaw
- ◇ Oral Surgery
- ◇ Restorations
- ◇ Feline Dentistry
- ◇ Dental Laser Surgery and Treatment
- ◇ Emergency Oral Trauma Treatment
- ◇ Complete Dental Care for Seniors

*Dr. Nossaman is a Fellow of the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry!
1 of only 75 veterinarians in the United States
Currently, no other veterinary general practitioner in the state of Arizona holds this distinction*

American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) Dental Care Guidelines for Dogs and Cats

Essential Steps for Dental Cleaning

The essential steps for a dental cleaning and treatment of periodontal disease are as follows:

1. Perform an oral evaluation.
2. Radiograph the entire mouth using intraoral or digital radiographic systems. Take oral survey films at the initial examination and periodically thereafter. Take specific or localized radiographs when oral pathology is discovered. Radiographs are necessary for accurate evaluation and diagnosis. In one published report, intraoral radiographs revealed clinically important pathology in 27.8% of dogs and 41.7% of cats when no abnormal findings were noted on the initial examination. In patients with abnormal findings, radiography revealed additional pathology in 50% of dogs and 53.9% of cats.
3. Scale the teeth using a hand scaler or powered device.
4. Polish the teeth using a low-speed hand piece with prophylaxis paste that is measured and loaded on a prophylaxis cup for each patient, to avoid cross contamination.
5. Perform subgingival irrigation to remove debris and polishing paste and to inspect the crown and subgingival areas.

Additional Steps for Periodontal Disease and Other Conditions

6. Evaluate for abnormal periodontal pocket depths using a periodontal probe. The depth that is considered abnormal varies among teeth and with the size of the dog or cat.
7. Perform periodontal therapy as determined by radiographs and probing.
8. Administer perioperative antibiotics when indicated, either parenterally or locally.

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9. Perform periodontal surgery to remove deep debris, eliminate pockets, and/or extract teeth.
10. Biopsy all abnormal masses (visualized grossly or on radiographs) and submit samples for histopathology.
11. Take postoperative radiographs to evaluate the treatment applied.
12. Recommend to the client that the pet be referred to a specialist when the practitioner does not have the skills, knowledge, equipment, or facilities to perform a given procedure or treatment.

Postoperative Management

13. Maintain body temperature and continue intravenous fluid support as needed.
14. Continuously monitor and record vital signs until the patient is awake.
15. Continue pain management while the patient is in the hospital and upon discharge.

Postoperative Communication

16. At time of discharge, discuss operative procedures.
17. Discuss postoperative home care, including medications.
18. Discuss any change in diet that might be necessary, such as a change to soft or premoistened food or to a prescription diet.
19. Provide individualized oral and written instructions at the time of discharge.
20. Establish an appointment for a follow-up examination and further discussion.

Home Care

21. Telephone the client the day after the procedure to inquire about the pet's condition
22. Discuss client's ability to implement the medication and home care plan
23. Answer any questions and address client's concerns

Progress or Follow-up Evaluations

24. Set frequency of follow-up visits based on disease severity
 - a. At a minimum, annual visits if under 6 years of age with healthy mouth.
 - b. Visits every 6 months if 6 years or older with healthy mouth.
 - c. Visits every 6 months anytime gingivitis is present.
 - d. Visits every 3 to 6 months if periodontal disease is present.
 - e. Advanced periodontal disease requires monthly examinations until the disease is controlled
25. Reemphasize home care instructions and recommendations at each follow-up examination and phone communication.
26. During subsequent examination, evaluate client compliance, revise the treatment plan as needed, and redefine the prognosis.

Source: Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association, September/October 2005, Volume 41

In addition to the above, Anasazi doctors will

- ◆ Present digital intraoral radiographs on the computer in exam room upon discharge with each client.
- ◆ Present numerous digital photographs of the doctor's oral findings on the computer in exam room upon discharge with each client.
- ◆ Provide copies of printed photographs for the client to take home, which can also be emailed upon request.

It is our sincere hope that you will allow us the opportunity to provide *Excellence-In-Dentistry* for your pets. As always, we at Anasazi upgrade our skills in diagnostics and treatment by attending many hours of continuing education above Arizona state requirements. Combined with state-of-the-art technology we offer your pet the very best in veterinary dentistry.

Why settle for anything less?

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