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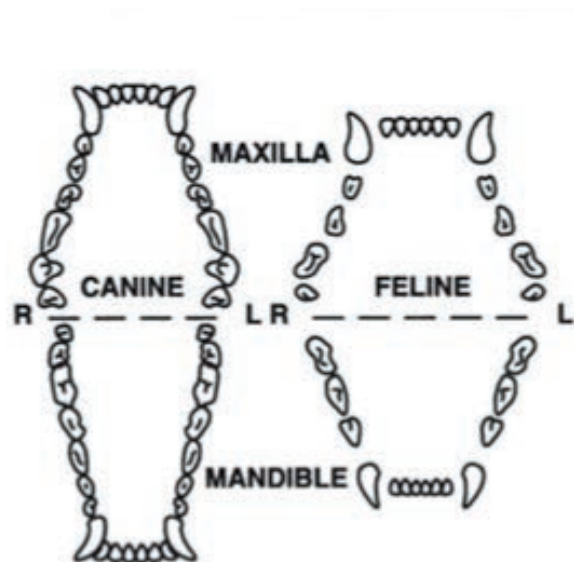
# Post-operative care and prevention of dental disease

## Today's dental surgery was performed under a full general anaesthetic.

Your pet may be sleepy for the next 12-24 hours. Please keep your pet warm and offer a light meal if they are interested in food tonight. Sometimes the drugs used in the anaesthetic can cause diarrhea but this should subside after the first few days. We can provide I/D food which is easily digested and provides all the nutrition required for recovery.

- Your pet did not require any extractions but the teeth have been scaled and polished.
- Your pet required extractions today. Dissolvable sutures may have been used. In order to protect the suture site, please feed soft food only for the next 10 days.

See below:



Your pet has been given pain relief today and additional pain relief has been prescribed by the vet.

Your pet has been prescribed antibiotics please follow the directions

## Please make an appointment for us to recheck the teeth and gums on \_\_\_\_\_

A dental scale and polish involves the removal of calculus /tartar (hard brown stony material) and plaque (soft paste-like material) from the crown and the sulcus area (under the gum line). Ultrasonic tips, which vibrate at 30,000 times a second, are used to clean these areas. The teeth are then polished smooth with a mechanical polisher. This helps slow down the reattachment of plaque.

Plaque is formed mainly from debris, oral bacteria and saliva proteins. It starts to attach to the teeth soon after the first meal and unless steps are taken to remove the plaque it will calcify to form calculus. The calculus is rough and full of bacteria and irritates the gums that then recede from the teeth. This opens up a gap between the tooth and the gum. Infection gets down into this gap and loosens the roots so in years to come we have to remove the tooth. The way to stop this sequence is to remove the plaque as soon as it forms.

## If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us

In an **emergency outside of normal hours** please call **01450 372038** to talk to an on-call member of our vet team