

SAVDOS GENERAL DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

Dental Surgery Discharge Instructions

Your pet underwent extractions, oral surgery, and/or other type(s) of advanced dental procedure(s) today under general anesthesia. Your pet may have required tooth extractions due to periodontal disease, fractures, cavities, exposed pulp, retained baby teeth, or other dental abnormalities. Because dental disease often cannot be fully assessed until the mouth is examined under anesthesia, additional extractions or procedures may have been performed even if not previously anticipated.

Your pet received pain control, including local nerve blocks and injectable medications. Additional oral medications may have been dispensed for home use. Please give all medications exactly as directed. **Do NOT give any over-the-counter human pain medications (Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Aspirin, etc.) as these are dangerous and potentially fatal to pets.**

What to Expect Tonight and Tomorrow

After anesthesia, it is normal for your pet to be sleepy, wobbly, confused, vocal, or restless. Dilated pupils, droopy eyelids, or mild behavior changes may occur and do not necessarily indicate pain. Most pets return to normal by the following day. If drowsiness persists for longer than 24 hours, please contact us.

Because a breathing tube was placed during anesthesia, mild throat irritation may occur. A dry cough, hoarse bark/meow, or voice change may last 1–3 days. As the irritation subsides, so will the cough. If the cough gets worse over the upcoming days or if it is ever productive, please call your doctor or the Emergency Service (if not during regular business hours).

Small amounts of bloody saliva or minor nasal discharge can also occur after dental procedures or extractions.

Keep your pet in a warm, quiet, protected environment tonight and supervise closely around stairs, furniture, and other pets.

Feeding Instructions

Your pet may feel nauseous the evening after anesthesia and may not want to eat until the next day.

Tonight:

- Offer small amounts of food and water (about 1/3–1/2 normal portion)
- Provide mini-meals every 30–60 minutes if tolerated

- If vomiting occurs after drinking, offer small amounts of water frequently

Starting tomorrow:

- Resume normal feeding amounts if tolerated
- Feed softened food (soak kibble in warm water for ~15 minutes) or canned diet blended to form puree consistency

Soft diet guidelines:

- Continue puree consistency diet for approximately 10 to 14 days (longer if recommended)
- Do not offer raw food for 48 hours after anesthesia

Because soft food contains more water, your pet may drink less — this is normal. Some pets will not have a bowel movement for 1–3 days after anesthesia. If constipation occurs, a small amount of canned pumpkin with meals may help.

Activity & Home Care

Limit activity and exercise for 3–4 days. Your pet may be unsteady tonight.

Avoid chewing and protect the mouth while healing:

- No hard chew toys (antlers, bones, nylabones, hooves, ice cubes, etc.)
- Prevent chewing on objects
- A basket muzzle or protective collar may be recommended for some pets

Excess saliva with a small amount of blood is normal after extractions and oral surgery and may persist briefly.

Pain & Healing

Mouth soreness may last up to several days after extractions and oral surgery. Absorbable sutures may have been placed and will dissolve on their own within 2–4 weeks.

Your pet already received certain injectable pain medications at the hospital. Continue prescribed medications as directed at home. If your pet seems painful, please contact us so we can adjust treatment.

When to Contact the Hospital

Please call if you notice any of the following:

- Persistent lethargy beyond 24 hours
- Refusal to eat beyond 48 hours
- Vomiting or diarrhea lasting more than 24 hours
- Severe pain
- Difficulty or abnormal breathing
- Wet/productive or persistent coughing
- Heavy bleeding from the mouth or nose
- Swelling of the face or jaw
- Coughing or bleeding not resolved within 2–3 days

Dental Care at Home (Very Important)

Dental disease returns quickly without home care. A daily oral hygiene routine greatly improves long-term health and helps prevent future extractions.

The gold standard is daily tooth brushing using pet-safe toothpaste. Other helpful options include:

- Oral rinses or gels
- Dental diets or treats
- Water additives
- Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC) approved products

Begin or resume **brushing only after the mouth has completely healed** and you are advised it is safe to do so.

Follow-up Examinations:

If a postoperative follow-up examination has been recommended, please contact your primary care veterinarian's office to schedule this appointment. Sedation or anesthesia may be required for some recheck examinations, as well as some fractious patients.

Histopathology (Biopsy) Results:

Biopsy samples usually take 7-10 business days to process. Samples involving bone may require decalcification prior to processing, which may take 1-2 weeks, depending on the sample size. We will contact you and/or your primary care veterinarian with results when they are available.

Thank you for caring for your pet's oral health! Treatment of dental diseases significantly improves comfort, prevents infection, and supports overall health and longevity.