

ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

1. The patient with corrective orthodontic appliances in its mouth needs special care to help assure safe, speedy, and successful results.
2. The appliance in your pet's mouth should be **examined at least two to three times a day to make sure it is in place, working properly, and not causing problems** for your pet.
3. Your pet will need to be on a **soft diet during the treatment** and be kept from chewing on materials (e.g. Chew toys, bone, etc.) that might loosen the appliance or pop brackets off.
4. Try to keep the appliance **clean by gently flushing it with a syringe of water at least once daily**. Buildup of food and debris under or around the appliance can cause inflammation and infection.
5. Should hair or material become entangled around the appliance or brackets, **be careful in attempting to remove it**, as you may pop a bracket or elastic free from its functional position.
6. If inflammation, ulceration, or soreness occurs, check with the hospital about the proper care. Soreness may indicate that the appliance is applying too much force and tooth movement may need to be slowed. Ulcerations may indicate that brackets need to have orthodontic wax applied on a regular basis to protect the lips and gums.
7. If something does not look right, call the hospital for instructions.
8. If you cannot contact someone and feel the appliance is causing problems, disconnect or cut any elastic that appear to be causing a problem, and continue to call the hospital.
9. For your pet's appliance to work efficiently, the doctor needs to check your pet every 10 days on a regular basis. Be sure to schedule appointments for these rechecks. Unsupervised appliances can cause serious damage to your pet's teeth, so keep your scheduled appointments.