

What Happens During a Dental Procedure?

Family Matters

One of the questions we hear most often is:

"My pet is having a dental. What actually happens?"

Many people imagine it's simply a scale and polish, similar to a visit to the dentist.

In reality, a veterinary dental procedure is much more than cleaning teeth.

At Amity, our goal isn't to make teeth look whiter. It's to identify pain, treat disease and restore your pet's oral health. Our purpose is to **Empower You Through Education**, helping you understand exactly what we're recommending and why.

Every Dental Starts With an Examination

Before your pet has an anaesthetic, we'll perform a thorough physical examination to make sure they're fit for the procedure.

Depending on your pet's age and health, we may also recommend blood tests beforehand to help assess their internal health and ensure the anaesthetic is as safe as possible.

Why Does My Pet Need an Anaesthetic?

Unlike people, pets don't understand that they need to keep their mouth open and stay perfectly still.

A thorough dental examination requires us to inspect every tooth, including below the gum line, where most dental disease occurs.

This simply isn't possible in a conscious pet.

A general anaesthetic allows us to examine your pet thoroughly, clean every tooth safely and carry out any treatment without causing fear, stress or pain.

More Than Just Cleaning Teeth

Once your pet is asleep, we carefully examine every tooth and every part of the mouth.

We remove plaque and tartar from **above and below the gum line**, where harmful bacteria accumulate.

The teeth are then polished to smooth the surface, helping to slow the return of plaque.

Dental X-rays Are Often Essential

One of the biggest surprises for many owners is that **most dental disease is hidden below the gum line.**

A tooth may appear perfectly healthy on the surface while infection is quietly destroying the surrounding bone.

Dental X-rays allow us to assess the roots, supporting bone and hidden disease that cannot be seen during a visual examination alone.

This helps us decide whether a tooth can be saved or whether extraction is the kinder option.

Sometimes Teeth Need Removing

Nobody likes hearing that a tooth needs to be extracted.

However, a painful, infected tooth won't heal on its own.

Removing it often provides immediate relief and allows your pet to eat, play and enjoy life without chronic pain.

Our priority is always preserving healthy teeth whenever possible, but never at the expense of your pet's comfort.

Recovery

Pain relief is provided before, during and after the procedure.

Most pets recover remarkably well and are often brighter and happier than owners expect—especially if they've been living with chronic dental pain.

Before your pet goes home, we'll explain any findings, discuss home care and show you how you can help maintain a healthy mouth.

Healthy Teeth, Happier Pets

At Amity, we don't recommend dental procedures because teeth look untidy.

We recommend them because dental disease is painful.

Our goal is simple: to help your pet eat comfortably, play happily and enjoy life without hidden pain.

Because every comfortable meal, every happy chew and every wagging tail matters.

Because they're not just your pet.

They're family.

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet. We're here to Empower You Through Education and help you become your pet's greatest advocate.