

Post-Op Instructions for Dentals with Extractions

If you have any questions or concerns about the surgical procedure or recovery, please email the Foster Veterinary Technician at sanderson@hswestmi.org.

Some animals may be slightly groggy due to the anesthetic medications and/or pain medication given for the rest of the day, especially if under anesthesia for an extended period of time due to an extensive dental. It is highly recommended to let them recover in a calm, dimly lit environment for the rest of the night.

Post-Op Medication - Your foster either received a topical pain medication during surgery today that lasts 72 hours, or received an injectable pain medication during surgery. Your foster may be put on one or two additional pain medications immediately post-surgery, or later in the recovery period. Pain medications MUST be given as prescribed - no exceptions.

Soft food ONLY must be fed for the next 7-14 days.

This means canned food or dry food with water or broth added that is allowed to sit for 10-15 minutes before serving. Hard treats, chews, and chew toys should be avoided while the gums heal. Failure to do so may result in opening of the stitches (dehiscence) requiring a second surgical procedure for repair.

Please schedule with your Foster Veterinary Technician a mouth recheck 7-14 days post-surgery to ensure everything has healed properly prior to reintroducing hard food and items.

Bloody discharge is normal - Some blood from the nose or in the saliva can be expected the next 48-72 hours after their procedure. This is normal with extractions.

Monitor appetite - Some animals will have little or no appetite following surgery. Some may vomit as well. If either of these symptoms persist past 24 hours, there is ZERO food and water intake in 12 hours, or vomiting 3 or more times in 12 hours, please let us know right away.

Monitor for infection - this includes excessive pain, foul smell, drainage or excessive swelling for 10-14 days.

Discourage pawing at the mouth - If your foster is pawing at their mouth, they must be fitted with an E-collar (aka "cone") to keep from breaking sutures open. This should remain in place at all times when they are not being directly supervised until their mouth is completely healed. We can provide a collar, or you can get one at a pet store. For smaller animals, a paper plate can be crafted into a cone, which can be found in your feline manual on how to create one. Please alert us of pawing at the mouth as it may be a sign of excessive pain.

Please email the Foster Vet Tech if any other of the following signs are noted in addition to what is listed above: Develops severe agitation or discomfort lasting more than a few hours, has difficulty breathing, begins squinting their eye(s) for more than 2 hours, develops a wound, does not defecate for more than 48 hours, begins bumping into objects, or has difficulty walking or jumping.