

Checklist of what to ask

The following is a checklist to help you become informed, not only with dental procedures specifically but all types of surgeries or procedures that your pet may someday need.

This checklist can help you compare Best Friends' standard of care and capabilities to other veterinary clinics.

	Best Friends Animal Hospital	Other
Pre-anesthetic blood testing.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pre-operative sedatives.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pre-operative pain medication.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
General anesthesia.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anesthetic monitoring capabilities.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
EKG.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pulse oximeter.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blood pressure.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dedicated anesthetist.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
IV catheter and fluids.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dental x-ray unit.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dental charting.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nerve blocks for extractions.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Post-surgical pain medications.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doctor on call for after hours questions.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Detailed written aftercare instructions.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No charge follow-up progress evaluation.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>



Dental care for animals is very important, because of affects periodontal disease has on overall health. It is more than a localized problem that leads to bad breath, tooth loss and dental decay. Dental disease is also the beginning of more severe systemic issues. Not taking care of your pet's periodontal disease can lead to problems in the liver, kidneys and even the heart.

We have the capability to provide the same kind of cutting-edge care found in much larger cities and universities, but with the friendliness and compassion found in a small-town atmosphere. We have established a facility where clients and their four legged family members can receive first rate care in a friendly environment. Throughout our dental procedures we take great measure to ensure that every patient is as comfortable as possible and receives the highest quality medical, dental and surgical care!



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A Guide to Comparing Veterinary Dental Services



What should you ask about?

Why is it important to ask the right questions?

Untreated or ineffectively treated dental disease can rob years of your pet's life. This is why it is so important that your pet receive regular, high quality dental care.

Investigating the quality of dental care your pet is being offered is important to ensure your furry family member is receiving state of the art dental care. Unfortunately, similar procedures, offered by many veterinary hospitals are not of the highest quality and can even be detrimental to your pet's health.

When inquiring about a procedure, particularly a dental/oral surgery procedure, it is important to ask who will be examining and performing the procedure. Is it a Doctor? How much experience and training do they have? Is there monitoring during the procedure? Is the anesthetic and pain protocol designed specifically for your pet? Veterinary hospitals providing the highest quality of care will be able to take the time to answer all of your questions and concerns, and may even be able to give you a tour of their hospital.

Once your concerns and questions are met you will be able to make the best possible choice of health care for your furry family member.

Pre-anesthetic blood testing: This is done to ensure your pet's organs, such as kidneys and liver, are functioning correctly.

Pre-operative pain medication: Studies have proven that pain medication given before a procedure is more beneficial in controlling your pet's pain than medication given after a procedure.

General anesthesia: Dental procedures (cleaning, polishing and oral surgery) must be done under general anesthesia. This sort of dental work is ineffective and can be dangerous if done without anesthesia.

Anesthetic monitoring: EKG, blood oxygen level and blood pressure are all very important to monitor while under anesthesia.

Dedicated anesthetist: It is vitally important for your pet's safety that there is someone present during the procedure whose only task is to monitor your pet, along with the doctor performing the surgery.

IV catheter and fluids: An IV catheter allows instant access to the circulatory system if any emergency drugs need to be given. IV fluids are used to keep blood pressure in a safe range and help preserve kidney function during anesthesia.

Dental X-Rays: Less than 50% of all dental problems in dogs and cats can be identified without dental x-rays. This means that anyone doing dentistry without routinely using dental x-

rays is missing more problems than he or she is finding!

Dental charting: This allows us to track changes in each individual tooth's health.

Nerve blocks for extractions: Just as your dentist uses Novocain prior to working on one of your teeth, we use the same drugs to reduce the pain your pet experiences from tooth extractions, periodontal work and any other dental procedure.

Post-surgical pain medication: It takes several days after the extraction for the pain to go away. Your pet will need to go home with pain medication for at least a few days after his or her extraction.

Detailed written aftercare instructions: You should always receive written instructions after your pet's procedure so that you know how to care for him or her, know what is normal after anesthesia and know when to call if you think there is a problem.

Doctor on call for after hour's questions: We have an after hour's answering service that can direct you to our on call doctor 24 hours.

No charge progress examination: To ensure proper healing, all of our dental patients receive a 2 week progress exam at no charge. At this appointment, we cover at home dental care and discuss any further dental work that was recommended by the doctor.