



Dear Cat Parent, Thank you for trusting us with your cat's dental care. Dental extractions are often necessary for maintaining your cat's overall health, and we want to ensure they recover comfortably and safely. Below are important instructions and guidelines to follow as your cat recovers from their dental and/or extraction(s).

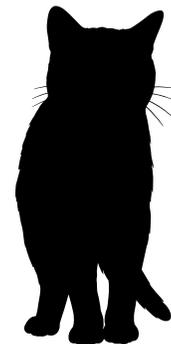
General Recovery Guidelines

•**Anesthesia Recovery:** After the procedure, your cat may remain groggy or disoriented for a few hours. This is normal, and they should fully recover from the effects of anesthesia within 24-48 hours.

•**Quiet and Comfortable Environment:** Place your cat in a quiet, safe space away from noise, children, or other pets. This will help them rest and recover more easily.

•**Limit Activity:** To avoid any strain or injury, keep your cat indoors and limit activity for at least 48 hours post-surgery. No excessive jumping or climbing to allow for proper healing.

•**Hydration:** Offer your cat small amounts of fresh water right away. If they are drinking normally and seem comfortable, you can offer their normal food gradually. Encourage them to drink by placing a shallow bowl of water nearby.



Dietary Guidelines

•**Feeding After Surgery:** For the first 3-5 days, offer your cat soft, moist food such as canned food or moistened kibble. Avoid dry food, hard treats, or bones until any extraction site(s) or inflamed gums to heal.

•**Pain Medication:** If we prescribed pain medication or antibiotics, please administer them as instructed. It's important to complete the full course of any medications, even if your cat seems to feel better.

Pain and Discomfort

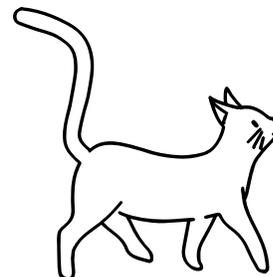
•**Signs of Pain:** It's normal for your cat to experience some discomfort following the procedure. Common signs include drooling, pawing at the mouth, or reluctance to eat. If your cat seems excessively painful, vocalizing in distress, or is refusing to eat or drink, please contact us for further advice.

•**Pain Relief:** Most cats only require a pain medication injection after their surgery to provide pain relief but your cat may be given pain medication to help manage any discomfort at home. If you are given any pain medications please follow the prescribed dosage and schedule for administering medication.

Oral Care

•**Brushing Teeth:** Do not attempt to brush your cat's teeth for at least 7-10 days after the procedure to allow the extraction site to heal.

•**Chewing Restrictions:** For at least 10-14 days, avoid giving your cat hard toys, bones, or chews. This is crucial to prevent injury to the extraction site.



Signs to Watch For

While dental extractions are typically well-tolerated, please be vigilant for any of the following symptoms and contact us immediately if you notice any of them:

•**Excessive Bleeding:** A small amount of bleeding or blood-tinged saliva is expected immediately following the procedure. However, if bleeding continues or is severe, please contact us right away.

•**Swelling:** Some swelling around the face or mouth is normal, but it should subside within 2-3 days. If the swelling becomes severe or persists, please contact us.

•**Refusal to Eat or Drink:** If your cat refuses to eat or drink for more than 24 hours, please reach out to us.

•**Vomiting or Diarrhea:** If these symptoms occur, it may be a reaction to anesthesia or medications, and we advise contacting us as soon as possible.

Follow-Up Care

•**Re-check Appointment:** We do not typically need to schedule any follow-up appointments after a dental procedure but if you have concerns about your cat's healing process please give us a call.

When to Contact Us

If you observe any of the following, please contact us immediately at **207-797-4747** or **westbrookah@gmail.com**:

- Persistent or severe bleeding
- Difficulty breathing or excessive panting
- Vomiting or diarrhea lasting longer than 24 hours
- Refusal to eat or drink for more than 24 hours
- Unusual behavior, such as excessive lethargy, hiding, or distress



We want your cat to heal comfortably and fully. If you have any questions or concerns about their recovery, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Thank you for trusting **Westbrook Animal Hospital** with your cat's dental care!

Warm regards,

The Westbrook Animal Hospital Team

Phone: 207-797-4747

Email: westbrookah@gmail.com

