Current Adoption Ward Residents

Lucy and Leo are littermates looking for a forever home, hopefully together! They are approximately 5-months-old, spayed/neutered, microchipped, and FIV/FeLV Negative. They are available through Northwest Animal Companions for $100 each.

Leo is a gray tabby with a plume of a tail who likes to tell you about his day. Lucy is a calico who is very playful once she has assessed the situation. Both of these kittens are incredibly lovey and well socialized. If adopted together, they could wear each other out with plenty of purrs left for their people. Come on by to meet them today!

Canine Influenza Outbreak in Washington State

During the month of December, 80-100 dogs at a boarding facility in King County, Washington, became ill with the latest strain of canine influenza (H3N2). This virus is highly contagious, so if you plan to have your pooch in an area where dogs congregate (ie. dog parks, shows, kennels, etc), vaccination for both strains of influenza are recommended at this time.

Vaccines are now available at Viking Veterinary Care for both strains of the flu (H3N2 & H3N8). They are $28/each or $35 for both and will require a booster in 3 weeks, after which protection lasts one year. If your pet is current on their annual exam at our hospital, the vaccines can be administered as a tech appointment. For more information, please check out the resource sheet below:

https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/FAQs/Pages/Control-of-Canine-Influenza-in-Dogs.aspx

Join the fun at Puppy Play Day every Saturday at 10am for $10! Every puppy has had an exam by our doctors, a negative fecal, a deworming, and is up-to-date on vaccines. Puppy’s nails must be short to prevent injury. Pups may be separated based on playstyle and size. Socialization is an important step for dogs to interact with each other and Puppy Play Day is another fun experience for your fur kid to have in a hospital setting. Please call for a reservation!
February Newsletter 2016

Behind the Scenes of a Dental

By Rosie Gilbert, DVM

Does your pet have bad breath but the thought of anesthesia for a dental scares you? You are not alone! And while we can’t ever promise that anesthesia is 100% risk free, we can show you what we do in our hospital to make every procedure as safe as possible.

**Before we even schedule a dental, we need to examine your pet and draw pre-anesthetic bloodwork.**

- The exam helps us give you the best estimate on what needs to be done, how long it will take, and how much it may cost.
- Bloodwork helps us make sure your pet doesn’t have any pre-existing conditions that we need to address before anesthesia (How’s our organ function? Are we going to process medications safely? Is there any indication to keep the patient on IV fluids before or after anesthesia?)
- Antibiotics may be necessary to start before the dental if there is infection within the mouth.

If we are unable to obtain blood during the exam appointment, we can run it the day of the procedure with our in-house laboratory machines.

**Medication prior to the dental:**

Prior to anesthesia, your pet will receive an injection of a pain medication that also makes them sleepy. By preventing pain before it happens, pets experience less pain post-operatively.

Depending on the severity of the dental disease, we may also do an antibiotic injection if the patient was not started on them beforehand.

Eye lubrication is always applied during anesthesia as well to protect the eyes from getting dry.

**Intravenous (IV) Catheter and Fluids:**

An IV catheter and fluids are placed prior to anesthesia. This gives us direct access to your pet’s bloodstream, should they need medications while under anesthesia. The IV fluids support your pet’s blood pressure. If blood pressure drops too low, blood flow to the kidneys is compromised and damage can occur. We do not allow IV catheters and fluids to be “waived”, as they are critical to the safety of your pet’s procedure.

Katy and Lisa have placed and IV catheter and are starting fluids on Winston.

Winston came to our Adoption Ward with 2 fractured canine teeth. We donated a dental to help him get adopted.
Anesthetic Monitoring:

Every pet under anesthesia has a breathing tube placed. This tube has a cuff at the end of it that is inflated once it is inserted into the trachea. The inflated cuff keeps any fluid from the mouth from going into the lungs. It also allows us to give deep breaths to the patient when needed. It is held in place by a piece of gauze secured behind the back of the head.

After your pet is intubated, they are connected to our monitor so we can keep tabs on their vital signs.

Dental Hygienist: Takes dental radiographs, cleans & polishes your pet’s teeth, and helps identify problem areas with an oral exam.

Dental Radiographs:

Dental radiographs are a vital part of assessing your pet’s oral health. They are used to see what is going on under the gumline. Radiographs help us find pockets of infection, resorbing tooth roots, dentigerous cysts, teeth that never erupted, masses, among other things. Radiographs in conjunction with an oral exam help us determine if a tooth needs to be extracted, or if there is something we can do to save it.

At Viking Veterinary Care, TWO technicians will be working with your pet throughout the procedure:

Anesthesia Technician: Monitors your pet’s vital signs throughout the procedure, making sure your pet is at the correct plane of anesthesia (not too deep, not too shallow).
Extractions:

If any abnormalities are found on dental radiographs and oral exam, we do our best to contact you at the phone numbers you have left with us. We discuss with you what our recommendation is and why, as well as giving you an updated price. In the event you cannot be reached, we do have an option on our drop-off form for you to authorize the doctor to proceed at their discretion, or not. **It is VERY important that you leave us a phone number where you can be contacted in case of emergency.**

Prior to any extractions, nerve blocks are placed in the mouth, just like what you receive at your own dentist if something potentially painful is going to occur. This makes the pet much more comfortable waking up.

Once the area is numbed, the gums are elevated from the tooth and the tooth is removed. The difficulty of an extraction depends on how many roots the tooth has, what condition those roots are in, and if infection is present.

After the tooth is extracted, the socket is flushed with an antibiotic and closed with absorbable suture.
Post-operative Care:

Post-operatively, we routinely use our Class IV therapy laser to speed healing and reduce gingivitis. Protective eyewear is placed on your pet prior to lasering.

A technician remains with your pet until they are extubated and sitting up. Even then, they remain in our ICU ward so they can be closely monitored while still sedated. If an extraction was performed, they may receive another pain injection before going home with a prescription of pain medication.

Depending on the severity of the oral disease, we may want to recheck your pet in 7-10 days. Sometimes we have to go longer on the antibiotic course, or your pet may need an additional laser treatment if infection or inflammation persists.

Instructions to go home:

We do our best to provide before and after pictures, as well as copies of the dental radiographs so you understand what your pet went through during their procedure. You will be sent home with a dental report card that has your post-operative instructions on it, as well as a Tooth Fairy Cup with your pet’s teeth if you want to put it under their pillow. 😊

Should you have any other questions or concerns regarding a dental in your pet, please feel free to call our office anytime at 971-371-4024.

Winston lost 2 canine teeth during his dental.

Winston showing off his pearly whites post-dental!