

Checklist of Dental Services

In order to help you make an informed decision, we have created a chart that details what our dental procedures involve. This chart can be used to better compare our procedures with those of other facilities.

	GCAH	Other
Pre-anesthetic Blood testing	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pre-operative sedation.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pre-operative pain medications.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
General Anesthesia.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anesthetic monitoring capabilities.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Respiration	í í í í	Yes
EKG	í í í í í	Yes
Pulse Oximeter	í	Yes
Blood Pressure	í	Yes
Carbon Dioxide	í	Yes
Dedicated Anesthetist.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
IV Catheter and fluids.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dental Charting.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dental x-rays.....	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 all questions.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Detailed written discharge instructions....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No charge follow up exam.....	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>

Gentle Care Animal Hospital was established in 1987 by Dr. Marguerite Ermeling. Her vision was to establish a hospital where clients and their four legged family members could receive first rate care in a friendly environment. They want to have their patients actually enjoy coming to the doctors office. That's why they get lots of treats, hugs and pats on the head.

In addition to making sure every patient is as comfortable as possible, Gentle Care has also made a commitment to the highest quality medical, dental and surgical care. This is reflected by the use of the most up to date diagnostic and therapeutic techniques.



Gentle Care Animal Hospital currently has the only Registered Veterinary Technician with a Veterinary Technician Speciality in Dentistry in the Midwest. Mary received her B.S. in Biology/Microbiology from South Dakota State University, her A.S. in Laboratory Animal Science from Redlands Community College, and her A.S. in Veterinary Technology from St. Petersburg College. She is a Charter member of the Academy of Veterinary Dental Technicians and received her Veterinary Technician Specialty in Dentistry in June 2006. Mary worked with Odontex, Inc and the University of Kansas for over 13 years, specializing in veterinary dental research on products aimed at improving oral health. She has authored or co-authored over 50 publications including chapters in textbooks and has been a speaker and wet lab instructor at numerous national and state veterinary conferences.

Comparing Veterinary Dental Services



Phone: 785-841-1919
 Fax: 785-841-1844
 Email: info@gcahlawrence.com

What should you ask about?

Why is important to ask the right questions?

If you want the kind of care for your beloved pet that you want for yourself or another family member, you need to investigate the quality of care you are being offered by any veterinarian. Unfortunately, similar sounding procedures are frequently not performed similarly at different veterinary hospitals.

To get high quality care, you need to choose a hospital with high standards. When asking about any service, please inquire as to what is included in the procedure in which you are interested. Also inquire about who exactly is performing the procedure, what their training level is, and what kind of anesthetic monitoring is used. A good clinic should be happy to talk to you about all of these factors. They should be willing to give you a tour of their facilities.

Once you have all the appropriate information, you can make an informed choice as to what level of health care you would like for your pet.

Pre-anesthetic blood testing: This is done to make sure that your pet's internal organs such as kidney and liver are functioning normally before specifically choosing your pet's best option for the safest anesthesia.

Pre-operative pain medication: Studies have shown that pain medication given before a procedure is much more effective in preventing pain than pain medication given after the procedure.

General anesthesia: To complete a thorough oral exam and cleaning procedure and to locate oral problems dental work *must* be done under general anesthesia. Veterinary dental work is ineffective and can be dangerous if done without anesthesia.

Anesthetic monitoring: Respiration, EKG, blood oxygen and carbon dioxide levels and blood pressure are all very important since they can point to early signs of anesthetic problems when those problems can still be addressed.

IV catheter and fluids: An IV catheter allows for instant access to the circulatory system if any emergency drugs are needed. IV fluids are used to keep blood pressure in a safe range and help preserve kidney function during anesthesia and help maintain body temperature. In addition, they help flush anesthetics from the body.

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 they are finding! Dental x-rays are also necessary to be sure that no tooth root fragments have been left behind after a tooth is extracted. The American Animal Hospital Association Dental Care Guidelines *require* the regular use of dental x-rays taken by a dental x-ray unit when performing dental procedures on pets.

Dental charting: A thorough oral examination is performed on each patient. This allows us to track changes in each individual tooth's health so that we can take action before there is irreversible disease.

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

Post-surgical pain medication: Anti-inflammatory medications will be prescribed post dental cleaning to help your pet feel better faster. As anyone who has had a wisdom tooth removed knows, it takes several days after an extraction for the pain to go away. That is why your pet should have additional pain medication for a few days after his or her extraction.

Detailed written and verbal discharge 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, what medications to give when and know who to call if you think there is a problem.

Doctor on call after hours: Our doctors are *on call 24 hours a day* so if a problem should arise after you are home you can call for help.

No charge follow up exams: To ensure that your pet is healing properly following their dental procedures, they will receive a follow up exam with our dental technician at no charge.