



# HALE VETERINARY CLINIC

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**DENTAL AND ORAL SURGERY FOR PETS SINCE 1991**

## A REFERRAL TO HALE VETERINARY CLINIC ~ WHAT TO EXPECT

Your veterinarian has detected an oral or dental concern with your pet and feels a referral to a veterinary dental specialist is called for. Your veterinarian will be calling us shortly to explain the situation and introduce you to us, and then we will be expecting a call from you.

When you call, we will answer as many of your questions as possible, but in general terms. Until we have actually seen your pet, we cannot make an accurate diagnosis or make specific recommendations. If you provide us with an email address, we can direct you to some of the informational resources to be found on our website. After we have discussed your pet's problem(s), we will arrange a date for you to come to our office in Guelph. We will schedule enough time to allow for evaluation and treatment of the problem(s) in one visit (some procedures, such as metal crowns, require two visits).

On the appointed day, my registered veterinary technicians and I will meet you at my office. Your pet should have had no food for twelve hours prior to the appointment but can have water until you leave home. On your arrival, you will fill out a brief information sheet and we will review any documents sent with you by your veterinarian. Then we will get down to work.

I will start with as thorough an oral examination as your pet will allow (some of my patients have very sore mouths and are understandably reluctant to let a stranger go poking around in there). With the information from the history and the initial examination, I will develop a tentative diagnosis. I will then explain my findings and start outlining the treatment options. We will discuss this together so that we can determine the best treatment for your pet's specific situation. I will write up a tentative treatment plan and estimate and ask for your informed consent. I will then administer a pre-anesthetic sedative and ask you to return to the reception area to sit with your pet while sedation takes effect and we get the equipment organized for surgery.

About twenty minutes later, we will bring your pet back into our treatment room for some intravenous fluids and oxygen and then induction of general anesthesia. Once your pet is under anesthesia, I will do a more thorough oral examination with whole-mouth intra-oral dental radiographs. I will then review/discuss all of the new findings with you and either confirm or refine the treatment plan and estimate to get your informed consent to proceed.

At this stage you will be given the option of staying in our reception area (knit, read, log on to our wifi, enjoy our hot beverage centre...) or leaving the hospital for a time. If you leave, we will tell you when we would like you to return to the hospital.

At the end of the procedure, one of our registered veterinary technicians will stay with your pet during recovery from anesthesia while I write up the record, discharge statement and invoice. If you are back in time, you may be invited to sit with and cuddle your pet during recovery.

By the time I have done all of my paperwork and gone over your discharge instructions, your pet will likely be ready to go home. For dogs, that means they are able to stand and walk out on their own. For cats it means they are sitting up and are bright and alert.

As you can see, I want you to be well informed about what is going on and why and to be involved in the decision making process; I may have my preferences, but ultimately, it is the owner who must authorize any treatment plan.

I have described a typical visit, but we can be somewhat flexible. We will do our best to tailor your visit to meet your needs and expectations while tending to your pet's needs. I look forward to hearing from you and to helping your pet enjoy good oral health.

Sincerely,

Fraser A. Hale, DVM, FAVD, Dip AVDC

[www.toothvet.ca](http://www.toothvet.ca)

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