



Cheshire Pet Medical Centre (Sandbach)

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Dentistry at Cheshire Pet

We now offer staged dentistry here at Cheshire Pet. A “staged” dental is when the dental procedure your pet requires is split into two separate visits with us and two separate anaesthetics.



The main reason we have taken this new approach is to **maximise safety** for your much loved pet. Dog and cat dentals can be some of the longest surgical procedures that are performed in general practice. This is because their teeth have multiple long roots and require careful surgical extraction in many cases, even when the teeth have significant disease.

A “traditional” dental done in a single day can easily take 2 or 3 hours, occasionally longer for the most complicated cases, which is a very long time for a dog or cat to be under anaesthetic.

Our aim is therefore to improve this situation significantly by offering all our patients a carefully thought out and managed approach to their dental, of which staging is a key aspect. Be reassured that all the benefits that were included in our previous dental packages are still being offered.

How it works is as follows:

Stage I – Dental charting, scale and polish, and full mouth x-rays

- Comprehensive Pre-anaesthetic Blood test
- IV fluids (If indicated clinically, or from the blood results)
- Premedication and pre-emptive analgesia followed by induction of general anaesthesia.
- Dental charting of teeth and mouth.
- Scale and polish.
- Full mouth dental x-rays.

- Some extractions *may* then be performed during this visit but this will be down to the discretion of the operating vet (i.e. if doing so will benefit the patient by making the two procedures of more equal GA length, or if there are any excessively mobile teeth that will be uncomfortable to leave) **
- Recovery of patient.
- Discussion with vet or RVN to go through findings.
- Scheduling of Stage II (if required) 1-2 weeks later, estimate for this given.
- Home with pain relief and/or antibiotics (if indicated).
- Note: 10% off for BFHP members.

Stage II – Oral Surgery

Second procedure performed 1-2 weeks after the first, to complete surgery requirements identified during Stage I.

- IV fluids (if required as per Stage I).
- Premedication and pre-emptive analgesia followed by induction of general anaesthesia.
- Local anaesthetic nerve blocks placed in the mouth.
- Tooth extraction(s)
- Suturing of gums after tooth extractions.
- Repeat x-rays post extractions (if indicated).
- Discussion with operating vet after the procedure.
- Home with analgesia (with or without antibiotics).
- Discounts as for Stage I (i.e. 10% off BFHP).
- Post-op check with nurse at 3 and 10 days after procedure. Dental homecare plan discussed.

WHY IS A BLOOD TEST INCLUDED?

As many pets that need dental surgery are older or may be living with other illnesses or health conditions, we recommend that your pet has a blood test just before the general anaesthetic to check his or her major organ function and red and white cell count. We can then address/treat any abnormalities found to enhance the safety of the dental procedure.

WHY ARE INTRAVENOUS FLUIDS (a “drip”) INCLUDED?

Gold standard veterinary care would recommend that your pet is put on to a drip (intravenous fluids) during the time he or she is with us- all pets have to have water withheld on the day of anaesthesia and this needs to be compensated for by giving fluid in a different way. This helps maintain blood pressure under anaesthetic and support the kidneys while metabolising the anaesthetic drugs.

WHY ARE XRAYS NEEDED OF MY PET’S TEETH?

We have a dental x ray machine which works similarly to human dental x ray and allows us to take very detailed pictures of all the tooth roots and the jawbone. This provides invaluable information when making decisions about each tooth, as many dental pathologies are hidden and only active below the gumline. This is especially

important when undertaking feline dentistry as cats can suffer with resorptive lesions on their teeth.

WHY ARE THERE TWO STAGES?

The main reason for this is to prevent your pet from being under anaesthesia for an excessively long period of time. The charting, scale and polish, and full mouth x-rays (i.e. Stage I) can take up to one hour alone.

Extended anaesthetics can lead to low blood pressure issues (hypotension), as well as the development of a reduced body temperature (hypothermia), both of which can be harmful to your pet's anaesthetic safety and recovery.

It also allows for proper planning of the required oral surgery, rather than unexpected diseases being identified during dental radiography, and these having to be addressed immediately.

Performing Stage II on a separate day allows the oral surgery to be performed in a cleaner environment, rather than immediately after the descaling process.

Two planned, shorter procedures increase the likelihood of smoother recoveries from the anaesthesia.

ARE TWO ANAESTHETICS SAFE?

Two shorter planned anaesthetics are certainly much safer than one excessively long one.

The premedication and anaesthetic combinations that we use are selected specifically for your pet, based on their individual health needs.

In all cases, consideration has to be given to the risks and benefits. However, in the case of dental disease, then the benefits often outweigh the risks.

WHY IS A SECOND PROCEDURE REQUIRED?

A second procedure will be required if the dental x-rays have revealed diseased teeth/roots/jaw bone and the time required to address these problems will be too long to perform all necessary treatments under one anaesthetic. It is important that if a Stage II procedure is recommended, that this is carried out without undue delay, as dental disease is painful, and without appropriate action your pet will continue to live with a chronically painful mouth.

Pricing*:

Stage I:

Cat £376

Dog £430

Stage II: Both cats and dogs:

Band A 30 mins extraction time £204

Band B 30 – 60 mins extraction time £282

Band C 60 mins+ £408

(Extra large dogs (40kg+): £90 surcharge for stage II only)

*These prices include everything outlined in the descriptions above for each stage.

**If any teeth are extracted during stage 1, but your pet still requires a stage 2 to finish the rest of the treatment then full payment for both stage 1 and 2 will be due on the day of stage 1. The band that you will need to pay for will have been determined following the charting process. There will then be no further charges on the day of stage 2 unless you are informed otherwise.