

We believe that one of the most important aspects of pet health care is attention to dental health care. Dental disease is the number one health issue we see in daily practice. Poor oral health leads to bad breath, infection, heart disease, and chronic pain. New Hope Animal Hospital offers a wide range of dental services including dental home care instruction, in hospital cleaning for more advanced calculus and periodontal disease, digital dental x-ray, and tooth extraction. If more advanced dental procedures are needed we are more than happy to refer you to a veterinary dentist. If you have ever experienced a "tooth ache" you can appreciate our relentless efforts to educate our clients on oral health care for their pets.

New Hope Animal Hospital has served the northwest communities of greater Minneapolis since 1975. For three generations offering quality veterinary care for the most important members of your family. The hospital is accredited by the American Animal Hospital Association. This accreditation ensures that the hospital is in full compliance with the associations highest quality standards of care. Great medical care can only be provided by knowledgeable and dedicated veterinarians, unsurpassed modern technology, and most important a caring staff dedicated to enhancing the life quality of every pet.

New Hope Animal Hospital

A Guide To Comparing Veterinary Dental Service



Moderate dental disease



Teeth after dental work



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Why is it important to ask the right questions?

If you want the care for your cherished pet that equals what you expect for yourself or a family member, investigate the quality of care offered by any veterinarian. Similar sounding procedures, when examined in detail, differ at veterinary hospitals.

To receive quality care, choose a hospital with high standards. When inquiring about services, ask what is included in the procedure. Inquire who will perform the procedure, what their training level is, and what anesthetic monitors are used. A quality clinic should be happy to talk about these factors. The clinic should willingly provide a tour of their facilities.

Having the appropriate information will help make an informed choice as to the health care level desired for your family pet. Consider the following:

●**Pre-anesthetic blood testing:** This makes sure that your pet's internal organs, such as the kidneys and liver, are functioning correctly.

●**Pre-dental pain medication:** Studies show that pain medication given before a procedure is more effective in preventing pain than medication given after the procedure.

●**Anesthetic monitoring:** The electrocardiogram, blood oxygen level and blood pressure measurements are very important. They point to early signs of anesthetic problems when those problems can still be fixed.

●**Dedicated anesthetist:** It is vitally important for your pet's safety that someone is present during the procedure whose only task is to monitor your pet. Would you be comfortable going under anesthesia if the only person in the room with you was the person performing the procedure?

●**IV catheter and fluids:** An IV catheter allows instant access to the circulatory system if any emergency drugs need to be given. IV fluids keep blood pressure in a safe range and help preserve kidney function during anesthesia.

●**Dental X-rays:** Less than 50% of all dental problems in dogs and cats can be identified without dental x-rays. Anyone doing dentistry without routinely using dental x-rays is missing more problems than he or she is finding! Dental x-rays are necessary to be sure that no tooth root fragments are 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:** This tracks changes in each individual tooth's health so that action is taken before there is irreversible disease.

●**Nerve blocks for extractions:** Just as a dentist uses novocaine prior to working on your teeth, we use the same type of medications to reduce the pain your pet experiences from tooth extraction, periodontal work and other dental procedures.

●**Staff member to hold your pet:** A member of our staff will comfort your pet if needed as they awake from their surgery. The power of touch reduces pain and anxiety.

●**Post dental pain medication:** As anyone who has had a wisdom tooth removed knows, it takes several days after an extraction for the pain to go away. Your pet should have pain medication for at least a few days after painful dental procedures.

●**Written aftercare instructions:** Post dental aftercare instructions are important so that you know how to care for your pet, know what is normal after the procedure and who to call if you have problems.



Checklist of what to ask

In order to make informed decisions, a chart details what our dental procedures involve. Use it to compare our procedures with those of other facilities.

	NHAH	Other Clinic
Pre-anesthetic blood testing.....yes.....		<input type="checkbox"/>
Pre-dental sedatives.....yes.....		<input type="checkbox"/>
Pre-dental pain medication.....yes.....		<input type="checkbox"/>
General anesthesia.....yes.....		<input type="checkbox"/>
Anesthetic monitoring capabilities:		
EKG.....yes.....		<input type="checkbox"/>
Pulse Oximeter.....yes.....		<input type="checkbox"/>
Blood Pressure.....yes.....		<input type="checkbox"/>
Dedicated anesthetist.....yes.....		<input type="checkbox"/>
IV catheter and fluids.....yes.....		<input type="checkbox"/>
Dental x-ray unit.....yes.....		<input type="checkbox"/>
Dental Charting.....yes.....		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nerve blocks for extractions.....yes.....		<input type="checkbox"/>
Post surgical pain medications.....yes.....		<input type="checkbox"/>
Detailed aftercare instructions.....yes.....		<input type="checkbox"/>