

Information for Cat Estimates Highland Strays

Your Pet's Oral ATP Visit

An Oral ATP Visit is a chance to A (assess), T (treat), and P (prevent) oral conditions which might otherwise go undiagnosed or treated.

Initial Assessment

The initial assessment of your pet's dental care actually begins right in your own home. You may have noticed that your pet has really bad breath, or their gums look really red. Maybe they no longer chew on their favorite chew toys or enjoy their usual crunchy bedtime snack. Any of these signs could be signs of an abnormality and should be checked out by your veterinarian. Most dental disease in dogs and cats occurs when tartar builds up on the teeth, causing inflammation of the gums. Eventually, the gums recede and the teeth become loose. The gum tissue around the teeth may also become infected. This infection may travel throughout the bloodstream to other parts of the body like the heart valves and kidneys.

When a veterinarian performs an initial examination of your pet's teeth, he or she maybe able to see gingivitis, or a broken tooth, but in reality it is very difficult to thoroughly exam your pet's teeth without sedation. When we visit our dentist, we are able to open our mouth on command so our dentist can at least get a thorough visual examination, however its not so easy to tell our furry friends to sit still and say "ah!" When a veterinarian sees an area of concern in your pet's mouth, he or she will recommend an Oral ATP visit. The Oral ATP Visit consists of 3 different phases. Phase #1 is the oral assessment of your pet's dental care needs, Phase #2 is treatment for your pet's dental care needs, and finally Phase #3 is prevention for you pet's future dental health. What exactly will happen during an Oral ATP Visit? Read ahead to find out....

In Depth Assessment

The first step of the Oral ATP Visit will be a more in depth assessment of your pet's dental needs. An in-depth assessment of your pet's teeth will only be able to take place while your pet is placed under a general anesthetic. To prepare for general anesthetic, pre-anesthetic blood work is evaluated. These tests and a physical exam help us evaluate your pet's fitness for anesthesia and contribute to the overall assessment of his/her general and oral health.

Another vital step during our more in depth assessment performed under anesthesia are radiographs (x-rays) of your pet's teeth. Radiographs permit us to look at the root of your pet's teeth. Unfortunately, the naked eye doesn't permit us to see below the gumline. Radiographs allow us to see signs of infection, broken roots of teeth, feline cavities, and other problems that frequently occur below the gumline. None of these things would be evident if we weren't able to take radiographs of your pet's teeth. We only see "the tip of the iceberg" without x-rays!

Finally, during the in depth assessment of your pet's teeth, a veterinarian will be able to perform a subgingival exam using special dentistry tools. Just like the radiographs help us to see the root of the teeth, these special instruments used together with the radiographs help us to see signs of infection that aren't visible above the gumline.

Treatment

Once a veterinarian has thoroughly assessed your pet, he or she will then be able to formulate a specific treatment plan for your pet's dental needs. Unlike our own trips to the dentist, your pet will be able to have assessment and treatment all in the same day! Once the in-depth assessment is finished the veterinarian over seeing your pet's care will call you

for a phone consultation and then proceed with the plan he or she discusses with you.

All of our Oral ATP visits include each of your pet's teeth being cleaned and polished individually. In many cases we will start to see tartar that has accumulated on an animal's teeth. Tartar is a very hard mineralized substance that cannot be easily removed. An ultrasonic scaler is used to quickly and safely remove the tartar from your pet's teeth. The teeth are then polished after the cleaning which helps prevent tartar from re-accumulating. A fluoride treatment is applied after cleaning and polishing.

Occasionally, loose or infected teeth are found during the dental procedure. You will be able to discuss treatment options with your veterinarian if they are noted or if any other abnormalities are identified. If at all possible the treatment for that tooth will be performed at that time. The usual treatment is to extract the affected teeth. Patients with extractions will receive antibiotic injections. These patients will also be sent home with oral antibiotics and pain medication.

Prevention

After the tartar has been removed from your pet's teeth, there are steps you can take at home to prevent it from accumulating again. Brushing your pet's teeth is the best way to prevent periodontal disease and really is the most effective if done frequently. Plaque, the gummy white accumulation on teeth that eventually hardens into tartar, is easily removed by brushing.

There are some dogs and cats who do not tolerate having their teeth brushed. For these pets, we have a variety of products from dental chews to dental treats that will help remove plaque, but none are proven to be as effective as daily brushing. Some of our favorite dental treats are Prescription Diet t/d, sold right here at Highland Pet Hospital, and Greenies chews sold at many pet stores.

Two Week Recheck Examination

Two weeks after your pet's Oral ATP Visit, a veterinary technician will examine your pet's mouth to assess healing and response to treatment. The recheck examination is included in the cost of the Oral ATP Visit and has a very important role in preventing future dental disease for your pet. It should be scheduled before taking your pet home on the day of his/her Oral ATP Visit.

During the recheck exam, not only will the results of treatment be assessed, but preventative strategies will be emphasized. In that way we can assist you in becoming experts at home preventative dental care! Our technicians will discuss preventative care methods and answer all your questions about how to best establish an effective home preventative care program that is safe for you and healthy for your pet.

Cost of ATP Visits:

Each Oral ATP Visit includes the following:

1. Assessment

- Pre anesthetic blood work
- Anesthesia
- Subgingival exam (under the gumline)
- Radiographs

2. Treatment

- Phone consultation
- Cleaning
- Polishing
- Fluoride treatment
- Miscellaneous treatment options may include extractions, etc
*if extractions are needed the antibiotic injection and pain medications

are included*

3. Prevention

- Post operative care consultation- discuss prevention, see before and after pictures, and x-rays of your pets teeth
- Two week recheck examination

Oral ATP visit Level 1 (No extractions) \$475.00

Oral ATP visit Level 2 (1-5 extractions) \$550.00

Oral ATP visit Level 3 (>5 extractions) \$625.00

Oral ATP visit Level 4 (whole mouth extractions) \$725.00

Where to get started...

The following is a list of steps to take in order to get your pet's Oral ATP Visit scheduled and underway:

1. Set up an appointment with one of our Customer Service Representatives for two different appointments. The first appointment will be to have preanesthetic blood work drawn, and the second visit will be for the day of the Oral ATP. The appointment for blood work should be scheduled with a veterinary technician 2-3 days prior to the day of the Oral ATP visit.
2. Bring your pet to the preanesthetic blood work appointment. This should take approximately 15 minutes. Before your pet's blood work appointment please fast your pet for at least 12 hours. We ask that you pay for the blood work on the day it is done. The cost will be deducted from your bill on the day of the Oral ATP Visit.
3. One of the doctors or technicians will call when your pet's bloodwork returns to inform you of the results, discussing any results which are impacting your pets general or oral health.
4. The night before your pet's scheduled Oral ATP Visit make sure to take away all food or water by 10PM. This means no midnight snacks or breakfast either!!!
5. Please plan to have your pet at our hospital between 7 and 7:30 the morning of your pet's Oral ATP
6. Upon arrival, one of our customer service representatives will go over an estimate with you, discuss a time for you to pick up your pet after 4PM that day, and record any contact information so that we can get a hold of you during your pet's visit. An appointment will be scheduled to pick up your pet before you admit them to our hospital for the day.
7. Pick up your pet at your scheduled time. Upon arrival to pick up your pet one of our

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Customer Service Representatives will invoice you out at the front desk. Shortly after, either the Veterinarian overseeing your pet's case for the day, or a Certified Veterinary Technician will discuss your pet's visit as well as different preventative options for your pet.

8. Before leaving our hospital after your pet's visit, please schedule a 2 week recheck exam.
9. Last but not least go home, and enjoy your pet's new pearly whites!

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