

COMPLICATIONS OF NON- ANESTHESIA DENTISTRY

Most pet owners have the privilege of helping to do what is best for their pets. Professional dentistry or Comprehensive Oral Health Assessment and Treatment (COHAT) is part of the regular and necessary preventive healthcare appropriate for your pet. Unfortunately, even with regular tooth brushing and feeding specially formulated dental diets, your pet may need professional teeth cleaning.

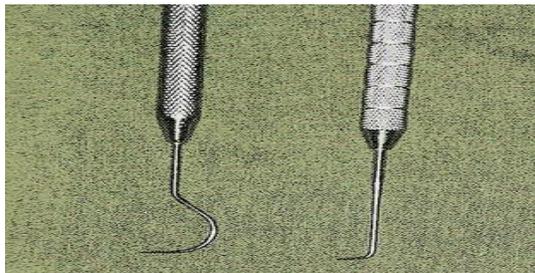
“Anesthesia-Free / Sedation-Free” Teeth Cleaning has Limited Value for Your Pet

This type of procedure is not endorsed nor recommended by the American or Canadian Veterinary Dental Colleges.

Pet dentistry is best performed under anesthesia by Veterinarians and Registered Veterinary Technologists who are professionally educated to properly perform these procedures.

What is Wrong With “Anesthesia-Free / Sedation-Free” Dentistry?

Without proper analgesia and anesthesia, it is not possible to safely and effectively clean under the gum line. This is the most important part of Oral Health. The visible part of the tooth is just the “tip of the iceberg.” Cleaning only outside of the tooth will make it look nice, but it does nothing to the bacteria, debris, calculus and infection under the gum line and in between the narrow teeth or other difficult areas inside the mouth. The hand instruments must be very sharp to be effective. If a pet moves even the slightest during the procedure, injury to the pet or the provider is a real risk. This procedure requires delicate control of instruments and may cause bleeding and pain for even very cooperative pets.



Sharp pointed instruments



Cleaning under the gumline



Inflamed gums

Measuring under the gum line on upper back teeth

What Happens If You Do Not Clean Under the Gum line?

Your pet will be susceptible to worsening bacteria and infection if the areas are not cleaned properly. If left untreated, these infections can result in tooth root abscess and jaw bone infection which are very painful. The constant presence of plaque and calculus under the gum line become a strain on your pet's immune system; it can even have a negative effect on your pet's organs such as the heart, lungs, kidney and liver.

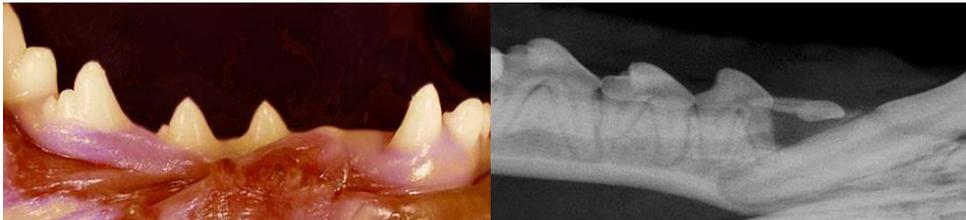
Are There Other Risks Related to “Anesthesia-Free / Sedation-Free” Dentistry?

More often than not, these pets need to be restrained and end up bleeding or scared after the procedure. They resent the mouth being handled in the future; even just for giving medication, grooming or petting around the mouth/face. Hand scaling, alone, with no polishing will leave microscopic grooves on the teeth surface, which can make them more susceptible to build up tartar sooner than anticipated. If your pet was under sedation, only, chunks of tartar chipped off or water can be inhaled into the lungs causing pneumonia. Additionally, the instruments should be sterilized at 250 degrees Fahrenheit.

Incomplete Examination

Without anesthesia, it is impossible to complete a thorough and necessary examination. Often fractured teeth or cavities are in hidden areas of the mouth. In the awake patient, it is impossible to perform a proper assessment.

One of the most important parts of dentistry is the x-rays which must be done under anesthesia. Think about how you have to be still while your dentist places the film inside your mouth....you get the idea. Failing to take x-rays means failing to detect and treat painful conditions. Dentists need to know what exists below the gum line - like seeing under the water of a floating.



On the outside seems a healthy mouth with just a missing a tooth, but the x-ray Shows that the retained tooth is causing bone loss

Your pet's oral health should be left to the Professionals

Only a trained professional can adequately assess your pet's oral health. Veterinarians and Registered Veterinary Technologist (RVT) are knowledgeable and educated to perform dentistry. Together with proper precautions such as pre-anesthesia bloodwork, intravenous fluids, an on-going anesthesia monitoring by a RVT, are able to thoroughly clean all aspects of your pet's teeth, including under the gum line, probe for problem areas, and perform x-rays, as well as extractions if needed with a “local freezing”.

Anesthesia-Free / Sedation-Free dentistry is a disservice to your pet. His/her teeth may appear clean but it does not address the root of the problem, which could end up costing you more in the future than proper dental care from the start.