

Pet Dental Cleaning

Mermaid SANDS | Post-Operative Discharge Instructions

Your pet had a dental cleaning today under general anesthesia. Their teeth were cleaned and evaluated, and they recovered well from anesthesia. Please review these instructions carefully.

What to Expect (Next 24–48 Hours)

- **Normal signs:** grogginess, mild wobbliness, decreased appetite (especially tonight), mild drooling or pawing at the mouth, occasional cough from the anesthesia tube.
- **These should steadily improve** within 24–48 hours.

Seek urgent care immediately if:

- Your pet is extremely weak, pale, collapsing, or difficult to arouse

Feeding Instructions

- **Tonight:** offer half of your pet's normal meal, then the rest 1–2 hours later. This helps prevent overeating and vomiting after anesthesia.
- **Not eating tonight?** That can be normal — try again in the morning.
- **Tomorrow:** resume normal feeding.
- **Diet:** no special food or texture restrictions are needed, since no teeth were removed. Some mild mouth discomfort is normal for a day or two.
- **Water:** keep fresh water available at all times.

Activity Restriction (1–2 Days)

Keep activity calm and quiet for 1–2 days. Avoid hard chew toys, bones, or hard treats until your pet is back to normal.

Oral Monitoring

Mild drooling, slight blood-tinged saliva, or reluctance to chew is normal for the first day.

Seek evaluation by your regular veterinarian or the emergency clinic listed below if you notice:

- Persistent bleeding from the mouth
- Refusal to eat or drink for more than 24 hours
- Significant facial swelling or pawing at the face that doesn't improve
- Foul odor beyond normal recovery

Giving Oral Medication

- **Hand pilling:** place the pill at the back of the tongue, close the mouth, and encourage swallowing.
- **Pill plunger:** use to safely deliver the pill toward the back of the tongue.
- **Pill paste:** coat the pill with a small amount of pill paste and offer it directly — confirm your pet fully swallows it.
- **Hiding in food (use if other methods aren't working):** mix the pill into a small amount of food, fed separately from the regular meal. This method carries a higher risk of a missed or partial dose if your pet doesn't finish the food — confirm your pet eats all of it before assuming the dose was given. Don't crush unless instructed.

If you're unsure whether a dose was swallowed, don't repeat it without veterinary guidance.

Elimination

Urination should occur within 24 hours. It's normal for pets not to have a bowel movement for 3–4 days after anesthesia. Seek evaluation by your regular veterinarian or the emergency clinic listed below if your pet hasn't urinated within 24 hours, or if it's been longer than 4 days without a bowel movement.

Follow-Up & When to Seek Care

We do not provide post-operative follow-up appointments. For routine questions or a recheck, contact your regular veterinarian.

For urgent or emergency concerns: Veterinary Medical Center of Indian River County — 1833 US-1, Vero Beach, FL 32960 — (772) 794-5800. If unavailable, proceed to your nearest emergency veterinary hospital.

Thank you for trusting us with your pet's dental care. We are honored to provide accessible dental services to our community.

Mermaid SANDS Team