

# Dental Prophylaxis

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## Overview

A dental, also sometimes called a "prophy" or prophylaxis, is a cleaning and polishing of a dog's teeth. It is important to realize that dental disease does not reach a particular level and remain there. Dental disease continuously progresses. As dental disease progresses, the treatment becomes more involved, meaning longer and more elaborate (and more costly) dental procedures. This means that sooner is better than later when it comes to addressing your pet's dental disease with an appropriate treatment.

## Diagnosis and Treatment Notes:

- Dental prophylaxis is generally suggested following a thorough history, oral examination. Prior to sedation, bloodwork may be recommended.
- Treatment depends on the severity of the disease, your individual pet, and your veterinarian. Pets undergoing dental prophylaxis may be treated with antibiotics prior to teeth cleaning. Sometimes, diseased teeth may need to be extracted during the procedure. Discuss treatment details when your pet is diagnosed with this condition.

## What to Watch for\*:

- Bad breath
- Difficulty chewing food
- Painful when chewing food or mouth is handled
- Excessive drooling

*\* Please notify us if you notice any of the above signs or if you have any questions!*