

Why Does It Cost So Much To Have My Pet's Teeth Cleaned?

Most people understand the importance of maintaining dental health, no matter whether we're talking about humans or four-footed animals. There is overwhelming evidence that bacteria from plaque and tartar travel through the bloodstream to lodge in the heart valves, causing heart disease. We also know how very painful dental disease can be. Pets simply don't have as many ways to express pain as we do.

Unlike most people, animals must be placed under anesthesia in order to clean teeth properly. Whether the procedure is done manually or ultrasonically, the probe must be able to scrape well under the gum in order to remove the tartar. It simply is not possible to do this in animals who are awake.

Before we put an animal under anesthesia, it is desirable to do some blood tests to be sure the kidneys, liver and other organs are in good condition to avoid complications. An IV catheter should be placed so drugs can be used most effectively. A breathing tube and heart monitor are also used to maximize safety. All these factors combine to reduce the risk of life-threatening complications and increase the cost of "Dental Cleaning". There is actually just as much time, care and effort put into a "Simple" dental cleaning as there is in any surgical procedure.

All in all, dental cleaning procedures are an excellent value, when you consider how much they increase both the quality of life and the length of it for our beloved pets.