



Animal Dental Services

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Dental Emergencies

Most dental problems in pets do not require emergency care, but there are a few notable exceptions.

Tooth Luxation and Avulsion

A major tooth that has been knocked loose, but is still partially in place is called a tooth luxation. If it is knocked completely out, it is called an avulsion. If the tooth is a healthy and sound tooth, it may be possible for such a tooth to be replaced into its socket.

Bring the tooth and your pet with you to Animal Dental Services as soon as possible to see if it can be saved.

How to store and transport the tooth:

Ideally the tooth should be quickly placed into a liquid made for the purpose of preservation called Hanks Balanced Salt Solution or HBSS. A school nurse may keep that on hand, but most households do not. You can also use milk as a good second choice if HBSS is not available. Do not scrub the tooth. Simply rinse the dirt off quickly and put the tooth in a small container with the HBSS or milk.

A luxated or avulsed tooth will usually need to be splinted into place for a few weeks, and then require a root canal procedure. If the tooth cannot be replaced, the empty tooth socket is cleaned and sutured closed.

Fractured Jaw

A fractured jaw that involves the teeth should be seen by a veterinary professional as soon as possible. If your pet has suffered a fractured jaw or trauma during the night or when Animal Dental Services is closed, please visit your nearest emergency animal hospital. Often such a case will need to be managed jointly with emergency personnel and dental/surgical specialty care.

If you are unsure if your pet's dental condition requires immediate action, please do not hesitate to contact us at 949.936.0054.