

# **What to expect at my pet's Dentistry and Oromaxillofacial Surgery Appointment**

## **Who Will I See During My Initial Appointment?**

**Overview:** UW Veterinary Care is a teaching institution, and your care team includes board-certified veterinary dentists/oromaxillofacial surgeons, veterinary nurses (certified veterinary technicians), veterinarians in advanced clinical training programs (residents and interns), fourth-year veterinary students, and at times, visiting veterinary students or veterinarians.

**Examination:** Typically, a fourth-year veterinary student will meet with you to receive your pet. That student will review your pet's medical history and perform an initial exam under the supervision of a clinician (doctor) on the Dentistry and Oromaxillofacial Surgery Service. The student will then review your pet's case with the clinician, who will also review your pet's medical history and perform a second exam. The clinician will then discuss and explain their initial assessment and make recommendations for a preliminary diagnostic and therapeutic plan. Together with the care team, you will decide on the best diagnostic and therapeutic plan for your family.

**Diagnostic Tests:** For patients with dental or oromaxillofacial disease, tests often include blood work, radiography (x-rays), and/or CT. In some cases, we may need to give your pet anti-anxiety or sedative medications to minimize their stress during the testing; we will discuss this with you at the time of the appointment.

**Discharge:** At discharge, the clinician and student will discuss and explain all of the diagnostic test results. **They will also make recommendations for further diagnostics or treatment, if needed. The discussion at discharge may take longer than you might anticipate. Please plan on spending at least 15 minutes, and up to an hour, with our team discussing results, treatment, prognosis, and making a plan for ongoing care.** Once finalized, we will send a detailed written report of diagnostic findings and treatment plans to you and your primary care veterinarian. After your appointment or hospital discharge, we will work with you and your referring primary care veterinarian to provide continued care. Please be sure that you have all prescribed medications for your pet before you leave.

Please bear in mind that full examination of the oral cavity is generally impossible without general anesthesia. For this reason, in most cases, a full and complete understanding of the extent of oromaxillofacial disease cannot be obtained until full oral examination and diagnostic imaging (dental x-rays/CT) are obtained under general anesthesia. In many cases, these diagnostic steps are performed immediately prior to treatment under the same anesthetic episode. However, in some cases, especially for oromaxillofacial tumors and maxillofacial trauma, a CT is obtained in advance of recommending treatment options. This is necessary to allow for an informed discussion of the disease process with you and for proper surgical treatment planning.

## Who are all of these people?

- **Faculty Clinicians:** Our faculty are licensed veterinarians and specialty board-certified with the American Veterinary Dental College (AVDC), who are nationally and internationally recognized experts in Dentistry and Oromaxillofacial surgery. All faculty are also Founding Fellows in AVDC Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.
- **Dentistry and Oral Surgery Residents:** Our residents are all licensed veterinarians who have completed at least one year of advanced post-graduate clinical training. They provide clinical service and teach students as part of an accredited program leading to board certification by the AVDC.
- **Dentistry and Oral Surgery Interns:** Interns are licensed veterinarians in an accredited post-graduate advanced clinical training program. They also provide clinical service and teaching.
- **Fourth-Year Veterinary Students:** Our fourth-year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students rotate through hospital services to gain closely supervised clinical education and experience.
- **Certified Veterinary Technicians/Nurses:** Our certified veterinary technicians are licensed and experienced veterinary nurses.
- **Client Services:** Our client services representatives manage patient check-in and discharge, schedule appointments and accept financial payments.

## What Costs and Fees Should I Expect?

The initial examination fee is \$225, which includes examination by and consultation with a dentistry and oromaxillofacial surgery clinician. An urgent/emergency exam fee is \$289.

*Pricing current as of March 2022. Prices are subject to change.*

The cost for dental treatment and oromaxillofacial surgery varies significantly based on your pet's oral health concerns, and a dentistry and oromaxillofacial surgery clinician will discuss costs further when treatment recommendations are made.

Please do not hesitate to discuss the cost of your pet's workup if you have concerns or are unclear about the cost of the proposed diagnostic or treatment course. Please remember that animal patients are much like people patients. They all recover in their own time. While we try to provide accurate estimates, recovery from procedures and required supportive care can be variable.

**If your pet is hospitalized, billing staff will contact you by phone to collect a deposit comprising 50% of the upper end of the estimate range provided by the Dentistry and Oromaxillofacial Surgery Service. Please note that the balance must be paid in full at the time of patient discharge.** Charges or credits may be applied to your bill up to 10 business days after the date of discharge.

**Payment methods:** We accept all major credit cards, cash, check or Care Credit. Payment in full is due at the time of discharge.

**Care Credit:** You may apply for Care Credit at 1-800-677-0718 or [www.carecredit.com](http://www.carecredit.com) (select UW Veterinary Care). If you have questions or concerns regarding using Care Credit at UWVC, please contact the reception desk at any time (608-263-7600)