

Checklist of what to ask

In order to help people make informed decisions, we have created a chart that details what our dental procedures involve. This chart can be used to better compare our procedures with those of other facilities.

	Pet Crossing	Other Clinic
Pre-anesthetic blood testing.....yes.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pre-operative sedatives.....yes.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pre-operative pain medication.....yes.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General anesthesia.....yes.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anesthetic monitoring capabilities:.....yes.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EKG.....yes.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pulse oximeter.....yes.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blood pressure.....yes.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dedicated anesthetist.....yes.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IV catheter and fluids.....yes.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dental x-ray unit.....yes.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dental Charting..... yes.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nerve blocks for extractions..... yes.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Post-surgical pain medications..... yes.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff member holds patient as they wake up..yes.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doctor on call for after hours questions.....yes.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Detailed written aftercare instructions.....yes.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No charge follow up progress evaluation.....yes.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Pet Crossing Animal Hospital & Dental Clinic was established in 1997 by Dr. Kate Knutson and Dr. Steve Barghusen. Their vision was to establish a facility where clients and their four legged family members could receive first rate care in a friendly environment. They wanted to have their patients actually enjoy coming to the doctors' office. That's why every patient gets lots of treats, pats, hugs and kisses!

In addition to making sure every patient is as comfortable as possible, they also made a commitment to the highest quality medical, dental and surgical care. This is reflected by the use of the most up to date diagnostic and therapeutic techniques.

Dr. Knutson is one of the authors of the American Animal Hospital Association Dental Care Guidelines.

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A Guide to Comparing Veterinary Dental Services



What should you ask about?

Why is it important to ask the right questions?

Untreated or ineffectively treated dental disease can rob your pet of literally years of quality life. That's why it is so important that your pet receive regular, high quality dental care.

If you want the kind of dental care for your cherished pet that you want for yourself or another family member, you need to investigate the quality of care you are being offered by any veterinarian. Unfortunately, similar sounding procedures are frequently not the same at different veterinary hospitals.

To get high quality care, you need to choose a hospital with high standards. When asking about any service, please inquire as to what is included in the procedure that you are interested in. Also inquire about who exactly is performing the procedure, what their training level is, and what kind of anesthetic monitoring is used. A good clinic should be happy to talk to you about all of these factors. They should also be willing to give you a tour of their facilities.

Once you have all the appropriate information, you can make an informed choice as to what level of health care you would like for your pet.

Pre-anesthetic blood testing: This is done to make sure that your pet's internal organs such as the kidneys and liver are functioning correctly.

Pre-operative pain medication: Studies have shown that pain medication given **before** a procedure is much more effective in preventing pain than pain medication given after the procedure.

General anesthesia: Dental procedures such as cleaning, polishing and more intensive dental work must be done under general anesthesia. This sort of dental work is ineffective and can be dangerous if done without anesthesia.

Anesthetic monitoring: EKG, blood oxygen level and blood pressure are all very important since they can point to early signs of anesthetic problems when those problems can still be addressed.

Dedicated anesthetist: It is vitally important for your pet's safety that there be someone present during the procedure whose only task is to monitor your pet. Would you be comfortable going under anesthesia if the only person in the room with you was the person performing the procedure?

IV catheter and fluids: An IV catheter allows instant access to the circulatory system if any emergency drugs need to be given. IV fluids are used to keep blood pressure in a safe range and help preserve kidney function during anesthesia.

Dental X-rays: Less than 50% of all dental problems in dogs and cats can be identified without dental x-rays. This means that anyone doing dentistry without routinely using dental x-rays is missing more problems than he or she is finding! Dental x-rays are also necessary to be sure that no tooth root fragments have been left behind after a tooth is extracted. The American Animal Hospital Association Dental Care Guidelines require the regular use of dental x-rays taken by a dental x-ray unit when performing dental procedures on pets.

Dental charting: This allows us to track changes in each individual tooth's health so that we can take action before there is irreversible disease.

Nerve blocks for extractions: Just as your dentist uses novocaine prior to working on one of your teeth, we use the same drugs to reduce the pain your pet experiences from tooth extraction, periodontal work and any other dental procedure.

Post-surgical pain medication: As anyone who has had a wisdom tooth removed knows, it takes several days after an extraction for the pain to go away. That is why your pet should have pain medication for at least a few days after his or her extraction.

Staff member to hold your pet as they wake up: We encourage owners to be with their pets as they recover from anesthesia. However, if they are unable to be present, we have volunteers whose only job is to cuddle our patients.

Detailed written aftercare instructions: You should always receive written instructions after your pet's procedure so that you know how to care for him or her, know what is normal after anesthesia and know who to call if you think there is a problem.

Doctor on call for after hours questions: We provide all our post procedure patients with the beeper number of the doctor who performed the procedure. That way if you have any questions or concerns you can get them answered by the doctor who is most familiar with the situation.

No charge progress examination: To be sure that everything is going well, all our dental patients receive a 2 week progress exam at no charge. At this appointment, we cover home dental care and discuss any further dental work that was recommended by the doctor.