

**Novey Animal Hospital**  
**Dr. Patricia Novey, DVM**  
**Dr. Angela Coleman-Wiebe, DVM**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **FELINE DENTAL DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS**

**Patient:** \_\_\_\_\_

Your cat has just had his teeth cleaned to remove tartar and bacteria from the teeth and under the gums. Where necessary, any loose or diseased teeth may have been extracted. After the cleaning, the teeth were thoroughly polished to remove plaque from the surface of the teeth. The last step was to apply fluoride to protect the surface of the enamel. As a hygienist regularly cleans your own teeth, your cat may need regular cleanings to ensure the continued health of his teeth and gums.

In order to do a thorough and safe cleaning, your cat was put under general anesthesia. You may find shaved areas on your cat where an IV catheter and various sensors were placed. These allowed us to constantly monitor heart rate, respiratory rate, oxygen saturation and blood pressure. These safeguards allow us to adjust the anesthesia properly for each individual pet. The hair should begin to re-grow within a few weeks. Some cats experience slight throat irritation from the endotracheal tube used to administer anesthesia and oxygen. Your cat may cough at home occasionally for one to three days. If coughing is excessive or prolonged, please call us for further instructions.

When your cat goes home, he may still be groggy and could easily fall from a sofa or down stairs. Care at home mainly entails restriction of activity to prevent any injuries. If your cat is to be left alone, he must be confined to a cage or other small area (such as child's playpen or a shower stall) and kept away from other pets. This strict confinement must be continued until your cat behaves normally, which may take until late evening or the next morning. You may feed your cat a small meal when you take him home (we recommend no more than one third of the amount of food). Keep water readily available. Do not be alarmed if your cat does not feel like eating, but his appetite should return by morning. If your pet vomits after eating, do not give him any more food until the next morning. If extractions were done, we advise feeding canned food (or dry food softened with water) for a few days. If periodontal disease was present and your cat is on antibiotics, please continue the medication for the full time prescribed.

Now that your pet's teeth are clean you can help them stay that way. Some cats will allow you to brush their teeth while others will not. There are a variety of pet toothbrushes available, and we will be happy to help you find the right one. Pet toothpastes are available in a variety of flavors, we do not recommend human toothpaste. We also recommend oral gels and wipes, as some people find these easier to use than brushes. We recommend that you clean your cat's teeth as often as possible. Tartar control foods and treats are also helpful.

Even with daily care, tartar may still form which would necessitate periodic professional cleaning. Some of the signs of unhealthy teeth and gums are: bad breath, difficulty eating and chewing, or not wanting to eat at all, red, inflamed gums. If any of these signs occur please let us know. Dental disease allows bacteria to spread from the mouth through the blood stream to all the organs in the body. The heart, kidneys, or the liver can be seriously affected by this bacterial spread, and disease in any of these organs can be fatal to your pet. Our goal is to help your cat maintain good health, which includes good oral health for its entire life.

**If you have questions or concerns during your pet's recovery, please do not hesitate to call our office at 878-8800. If you need advice after hours, please call Allied Emergency Hospital at 222-0123.**