

## Dental Treatment Consent Form

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

Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Patient \_\_\_\_\_

There are many new advances in veterinary dental care. In several aspects these are similar to, and in others quite different from, similar concerns in human dentistry. Please read carefully:

- 1) It can be quite difficult, *before* anesthesia, to be sure about the severity of dental disease - we are limited by the cooperation of the patient to allow complete visualization of the mouth, especially of the back teeth.
- 2) Dental tartar can hide underlying cavities or fractures. After the nurse has scaled and polished the teeth, they are evaluated by the doctor.
- 3) Many periodontal problems, and subgingival caries (cavities) can only be detected by probing under the gums with an appropriate dental instrument.
- 4) We can now use "Perioceutic" by Upjohn, an antibiotic-impregnated resin, which stays under the gums to fight periodontal disease, but such a procedure can only be validated at the time of examination, since only gum pockets over 4mm. are suitable candidates.
- 5) 'Gingivectomies' - the surgical removal of gum pockets is another way of successfully dealing with some aspects of periodontal disease - this enables more thorough oral hygiene.
- 6) Dental X-rays may be indicated - again, hard to judge prior to anesthesia in all cases whether these can be helpful. Some problems can be detected *only* with X-rays.
- 7) Extracting teeth is never our preference and, as in human dentistry, it is our *last resort*. The need for this can sometimes only be established when the patient is asleep. Only the doctor would make a decision concerning extractions or gingivectomies. The overriding concern is always the comfort and health of the pet - it is never beneficial to leave a loose or infected tooth, despite any cosmetic implications. Even with multiple extractions, we find pets recover from dental procedures very well.
- 8) We also thoroughly check the oral cavity, tongue, associated lymph nodes, pharynx, and larynx, for any other signs of abnormality or disease. Occasionally, abnormal tissue should be biopsied or removed.

If there is a need for dental X-rays (\$20 per film) or Perioceutic (\$45 per treatment) or other advanced procedure (**excluding** extractions or gingivectomies) while your pet is under anesthesia, how should we handle this? (Please choose one of the following):

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Perform what you consider to be necessary.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Please call me; I will be available at this number: \_\_\_\_\_  
If for some reason I am unable when you call, please:
- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Perform what procedures are needed
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. Do only what I have authorized.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Do only what we have discussed and I have authorized. I understand that a further anesthetic procedure(s) may be needed to complete future dental treatments if a new problem is identified.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Print: \_\_\_\_\_