

Guide to estimates for dental procedures

Grove Veterinary Centre is committed to improving the dental health of our patients. There are multiple benefits for both oral and general health in maintaining good dental care. There are two types of dental care. Firstly, home care involving diet, chews, brushing or other methods. Secondly, veterinary intervention, normally under general anaesthetic. If you have been advised that dental work is necessary then the following will give you a guide to the procedures involved and the associated costs.

1. Veterinary Dentistry.

Whilst a general assessment of the mouth can be done in the conscious animal, a full assessment can only be carried out when the patient is anaesthetised. Every tooth will be evaluated and those requiring extraction or other action identified. Where appropriate xrays of the teeth and jaw will be taken. Extractions will be carried out by a veterinary surgeon and the remaining teeth will be ultrasonically scaled then polished by a member of the nursing staff.

The mouth will usually be re-examined post dental at around 3-5 days for extractions or 7-10 days for scale and polish only. Antibiotics and pain relief are given when extractions are performed and there may be sutures placed in the mouth.

2. Costs

It will be clear now that the true cost of dental procedures depends on the assessment of the anaesthetised patient and the nature of the intervention required. However there are minimum costs which will apply to all patients.

a. Dogs

In the dog the cost for scale and polish is unlikely to be less than £220 but is unlikely to exceed £280.

If extractions are required the typical costs are £300-£400 but in exceptional cases up to £500 may be spent if very large numbers or complex extractions are performed.

b. Cats

For cats the minimum costs are around £175 with typical scale and polish not exceeding £250. Extraction costs in the cat are very unlikely to exceed £450 but may commonly exceed £325.

A more accurate estimate of price can be given on the telephone directly after the oral assessment is carried out.

3. Payment

You should check with your insurance company directly whether they will cover dentistry but we will require payment on collection. If the cost is likely to be very high or if further dental work is likely to be needed, you should consider joining our advanced Preventative Health Care plan. In this plan, for a fixed monthly fee all dental work is covered as well as a gold standard of preventative care including vaccinations, worm and flea control.

If you enrol for the scheme, you would be required to pay £75 at the time of collection and agree to make the monthly payments by direct debit. The intention of the scheme is to pay off the cost of the dentistry and then allow a balance to build up towards future cost. The price is £19 for cats and from £22 to £27 for dogs depending on weight.