

POST-DENTAL EXTRACTION CARE FOR GREYHOUNDS

Dental extractions are a common component of veterinary procedures for greyhounds, ranging from minor tooth removal to complex surgical extractions requiring sutures. Appropriate post-operative care is critical to ensure effective healing, minimise complications, and support the overall welfare of the greyhound.

The following outlines key considerations for diet, behaviour management, follow-up care, and potential complications following dental extractions.



Post-operative dietary recommendations

To reduce stress on the surgical or extraction site, a modified diet should be maintained for several days post-procedure. This should include soft, easily chewable foods such as diced, cooked meat or Prime100 rolls.

Post-operative foods to avoid include:

- Tinned or slurry-type foods, as they may become lodged in extraction sites and contribute to infection or surgical breakdown.
- Bones, chews, or enrichment feeding tools, as these may cause trauma and compromise healing.



Behavioural Management

Simple behavioural adjustments can promote recovery and reduce risk of surgical disruption:

- Avoid mouth-based games and rough play.
- Restrict exercise to short, leash-controlled walks for approximately one-week post-surgery.

Although compliance may be challenging, these measures significantly contribute to successful healing outcomes.

Follow-up and monitoring

A post-operative check is scheduled approximately one week after the procedure to confirm appropriate healing. Owners are advised to contact the treating veterinarian or their regular veterinary clinic immediately if any unusual signs are observed.

Potential complications

While complications are uncommon, they may occur and are typically manageable with prompt veterinary intervention. Issues to be aware of include:

- Licking or tongue movement changes: More likely following removal of lower canines.
- Tongue prolapse: Possible after lower canine extraction; generally cosmetic and not detrimental to quality of life.
- Wound breakdown: Although rare, this may occur if sutures are disrupted by licking.
- Risk of jaw fracture: Extremely rare, but more likely in greyhounds with advanced periodontal disease; can be managed effectively if it occurs.

Greyhounds undergoing dental extractions require structured aftercare to ensure optimal healing and minimise risk of complications. Adherence to dietary modifications, behavioural restrictions, and follow-up appointments plays a vital role in supporting recovery. While complications are rare, awareness of potential issues allows for early intervention and positive outcomes.

