

Veterinary Dentistry

Position:

The Edmonton Humane Society does not support anesthesia-free dentistry for pets.

Rationale

- Dental care is essential for preventing periodontal disease in dogs and cats. A veterinary dental involves a thorough oral examination and may include radiographs, which requires anesthesia. This requires extensive knowledge that is unique to a veterinarian's training.
- Anesthesia-free dentistry does not allow for the safe evaluation or treatment of sub-gingival areas in the oral cavity where periodontal disease can often occur. This can potentially delay the diagnosis of dental disease and timely treatment.
- The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) opposes anesthesia-free dentistry.
- The veterinary patient may experience pain, discomfort, fear, anxiety, and stress from restraint during an anesthesia-free dental. Movement of the veterinary patient during the exam may also risk damage to the oral cavity.

References

1. Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (2017) CVMA Position Statement: Veterinary Dentistry <https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/documents/veterinary-dentistry-position-statement>
2. Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (2014) A statement on anaesthesia-free dental procedures for cats and dogs. <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/a-statement-on-anaesthesia-free-dental-procedures-for-cats-dogs/>
3. American Veterinary Dental College (n.d.) Anesthesia free dentistry: Know the facts. <http://avdc.org/AFD/category/facts/>
4. Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (n.d.) Buyer beware: Nonprofessional dental cleanings. <https://www.albertaanimalhealthsource.ca/content/buyer-beware-nonprofessional-dental-cleanings>