



Veterinary Dentistry: Behind the Scenes

Follow Abby, an 8 ½ year old golden retriever, as she has her teeth cleaned at Portsmouth Veterinary Clinic.



But first a couple of questions to keep in mind...

1. Why do you brush your teeth every day and night?
2. Does your pet brush his/her teeth daily?
3. How do you think you would feel if you didn't brush your teeth?
4. What do you think your mouth would be like if you went a year without brushing your teeth?
5. What about 8 years?



Let's Meet our Patient:

Name: Abby

Gender: Female

Age: 8 ½ years

Breed: Golden Retriever

Abby is an adorable golden retriever who loves life!



Abby had pre-anesthetic blood work done before coming in for her dentistry in order to make sure she was healthy enough to handle the anesthesia.

The Veterinarian Examines Abby

Dr. Lapham also looks at Abby's teeth to see if there are any obvious concerns. Broken or missing teeth are some examples.



The certified veterinary technician (CVT), who will be cleaning Abby's teeth, also listens to Abby's heart so she knows her normal rhythm.

By knowing the patient's specific heart rhythm the technician is able to monitor her very closely for any changes during the dental procedure.





Next, pre-anesthetic medications are given to Abby.

The veterinarian and CVT determine the type and amount of medications given based on the patient's current health and weight.

Abby's heart is listened to for a third time to make sure she did okay with the pre-anesthetic medications.

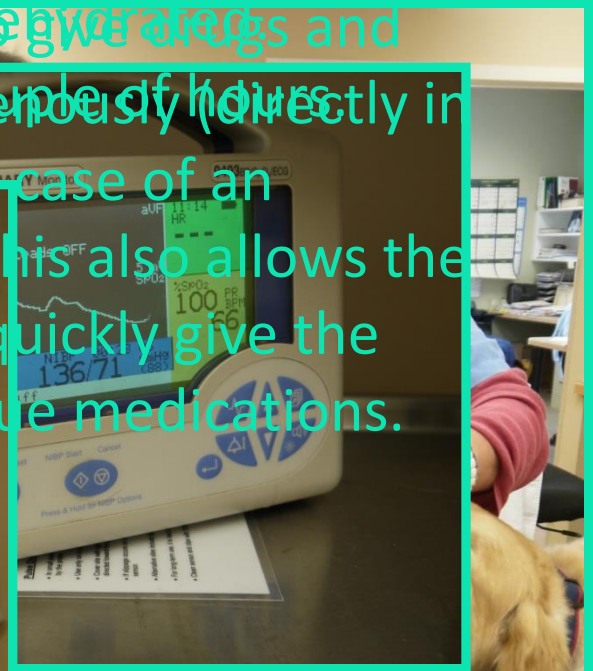




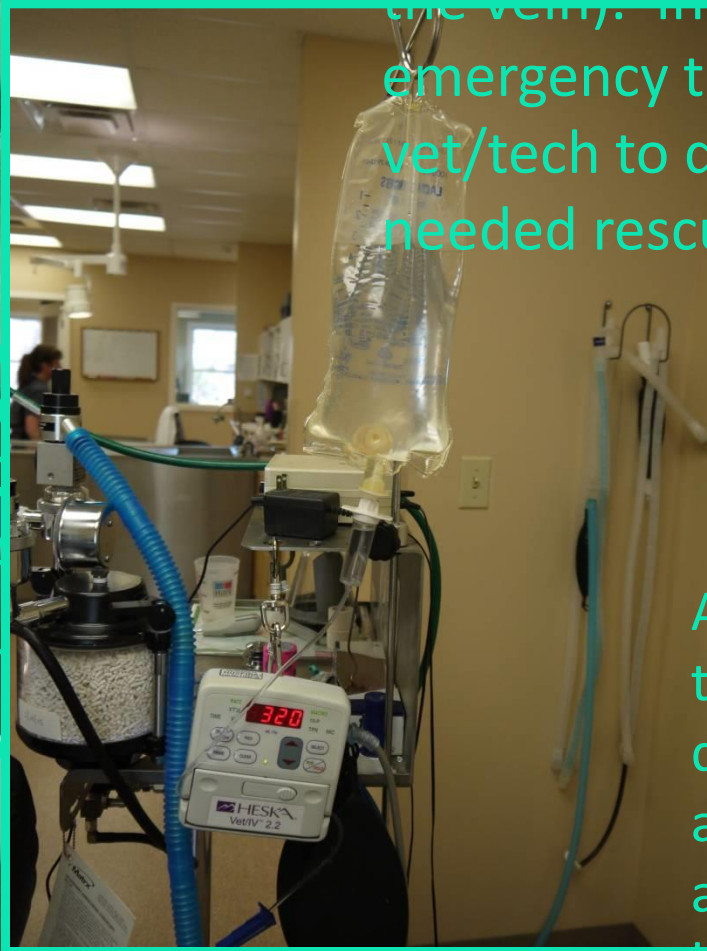
A catheter is then placed in
Fluids are given to Abby during her dentistry to
make sure she doesn't become dehydrated and

Some dental cleanings can take a couple of hours

(directly in the vein). In case of an
emergency this also allows the
vet/tech to quickly give the
needed rescue medications.



A tube is then
Abby's throat
will receive oxygen
through this tube
before



during the procedure.
Leads are attached
leads help the
level in Abby

feet. These
Abby's temperature is
taken. During her
dentistry she will be on
a heating unit because
anesthesia can cause
hypothermia.





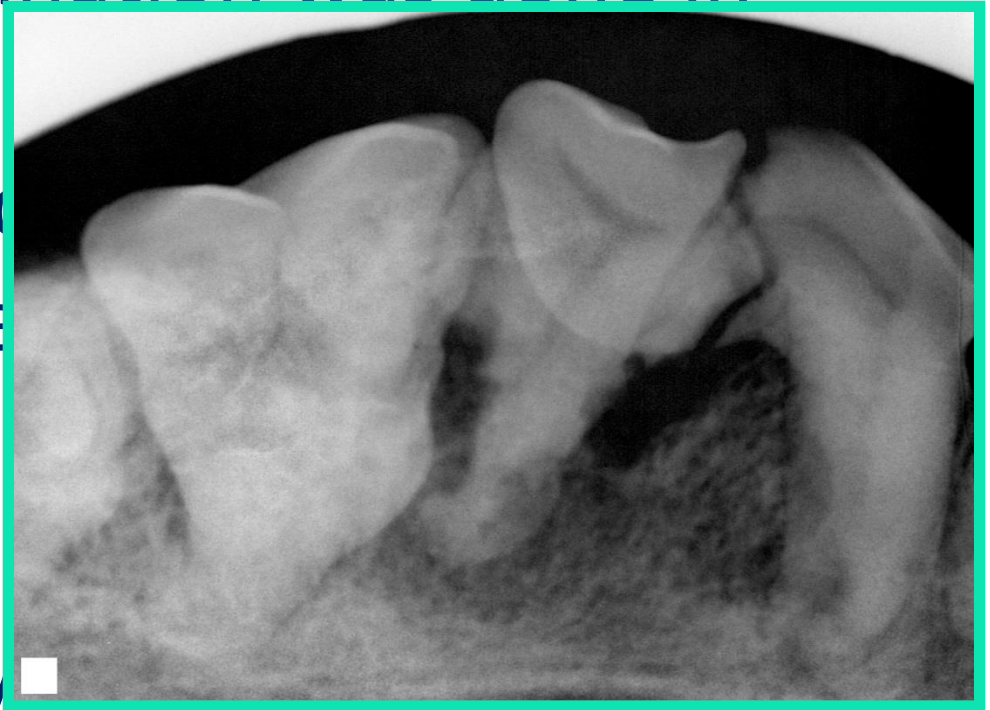
**Abby is now ready to
have her teeth
cleaned.**

Before Abby's Dentistry





was anesthetized a
examination was done in



cedures are always a
possibility during a dentistry.

Ultrasonic Scaler

The ultrasonic scaler uses water and vibration to remove tarter build-up on teeth.





Periodontal Scaler

The periodontal scaler removes tarter that forms under the gum line.

Dental Probe

The dental probe is used to check the gums for pockets and the teeth for enamel defects.



Polisher

The polisher is used to, well, polish the teeth.

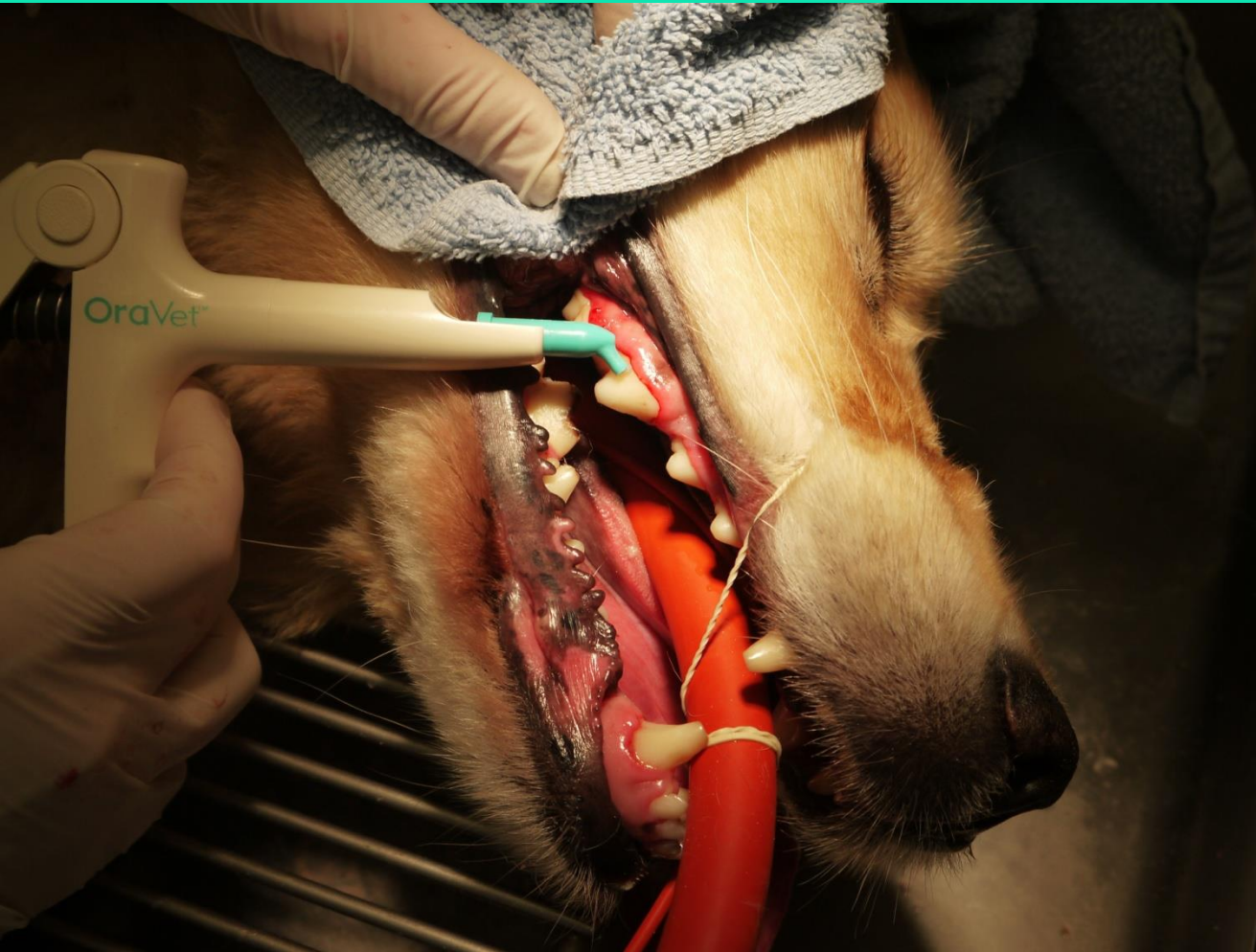
Wonder what flavor the toothpaste is?



Dr. Lapham checks Abby's teeth once they have been cleaned.

Just like how your dentist checks your teeth after the technician finishes cleaning them.





OraVet

OraVet is a sealant that we apply that significantly reduces plaque and tarter build-up on your pet's teeth.

After





Abby resting comfortably while waiting for her family to pick her up.