



## **ADOS POLICIES & PROTOCOLS**

**Monday – Thursday 8am – 5pm**  
[www.animaldentalspecialist.com](http://www.animaldentalspecialist.com)

It is a priority to assure that when you visit ADOS and when your pet presents to us for general anesthesia and dental/oral procedures you have a full understanding of our policies and protocols.

Our primary concern is for the welfare and safety of your pet while they are in our care. In order to fulfill the goal of providing the highest quality of oral health care, anesthetic safety and efficient flow of patient care, it is essential that we follow routines, protocols and policies. For everything we do behind the scenes, it is essential that you confirm knowledge and understanding of ADOS policies and protocols for the day your pet may be with us for general anesthesia and an oral procedure.

**Our Dental and Oral Surgery Specialist:** Dr. Buelow is a veterinarian, as well as a Diplomate of the American Veterinary Dental College. As an AVDC Board-Certified Veterinary Dentist, she is a specialist with advanced education and training in anesthesia, dentistry and oral surgery, far beyond that which is received in veterinary school. ADOS adheres to the higher standards of the American Veterinary Dental College.

**Appointments and Procedures:** A consultation with Dr. Buelow is required prior to a procedure being performed. All consultations and rechecks are scheduled through our client service representative during normal business hours. All procedures are prearranged for either the same day as a consultation or arranged for another day after the consultation. If your pet is geriatric, has underlying medical conditions, you have particular anesthetic concerns, or would like a cost estimate prior to the procedure day, then it may be necessary to schedule a consultation with our specialist on a day that is separate from the procedure. Please note that your “scheduled consultation time” or “admission time” is **not** the time the procedure is scheduled for your pet.

Please note that the office is open Monday through Thursday from 8AM to 5PM. Unless other arrangements have previously been discussed with an ADOS staff member, pets must be admitted to and discharged from the hospital within these hours.

**Heart Conditions:** If your pet has an existing heart condition or murmur, or if a “new” heart murmur is heard during the physical exam, a heart assessment by a veterinary cardiologist may be necessary before we proceed with anesthesia or treatment. To help assess anesthetic risks for your pet, cardiac workups should be completed prior to the procedure appointment.

**Consultation and Exam Findings:** A “conscious oral exam” will be performed during your scheduled consultation time. A brief physical exam will also be performed at this time. Although an initial diagnostic impression may be given from the consultation exam, a thorough oral assessment of your pet’s condition is not complete until an exam is performed under general anesthesia. This typically requires intra-oral radiographs which must be performed under general anesthesia. Many conditions are more involved than what the owners or referring veterinarians may have perceived. Dr. Buelow will discuss your pet’s consultation with you during the consultation. You will be advised of the preliminary diagnosis and what treatment options are available for you to consider. Anesthetic and procedural risks will also be discussed. Please feel free to ask any questions you may have.

**Final Exam Findings:** The complete exam findings are not known until a complete/thorough exam can be performed under general anesthesia. Before we perform any procedures on your pet, or if additional problems are discovered while your pet is anesthetized, you will be contacted by phone with an update on the final oral exam and radiographic findings to confirm treatment options and estimated costs. Therefore, it is essential that we have a home, cell or work phone number where you can be reached at all times. Any oral treatment not previously discussed and approved by the owner will not be performed. Without your knowledge and consent, we will not proceed with dental/oral treatments.

**Procedure Time:** Please note that your “scheduled appointment time” is not the time the procedure is scheduled for your pet.

We admit and perform procedures on an average of three to four patients per day. For the vast majority of our patients, the exact nature of their problems is not completely known until after a comprehensive oral exam has been performed under general anesthesia. **We cannot accurately predict how long any individual’s procedure may take.** These variables can affect when the next patient’s anesthesia and procedure can be started

Because of patient management, anesthesia and procedure involvement, it is important for us to have patients admitted to the hospital in the morning for exam, initiation of preanesthetic protocols and to be ready for their procedures.

We are hands on with our patients from the moment they are admitted to the hospital, throughout anesthesia and recovery, and until they are discharged later in the day. The hospital space, our education and training, and your pet’s care are all included as part of the anesthetic costs. The board certified dentist is directly in charge of all patient related decision making, oral exams, anesthesia and dental and oral surgical treatments. Although our LVTs are highly trained and skilled individuals, they are under the direct supervision of the specialist at all times.

**Therefore, it is necessary that you expect your pet will be admitted in the morning and left within our care within the hospital for most of the day.** In the majority of cases, it is not possible to predict what exact time a particular patient will be started and how long an individual procedure may take. The order in which procedures are performed is based upon many variables. Patient circumstances may change rapidly and this can affect the order in which we can perform certain scheduled procedures. **Therefore, it is also important that you do not have specific expectations as to what time your pet’s procedure will be completed or what time discharge will take place.** Yes, it is possible that your pet will be with us for several hours or more prior to when their anesthetic protocols and procedures will be initiated. We do not leave your pet unobserved and uncared for. They are monitored, walked, and assessed throughout their stay with us. We will make every attempt to keep you informed as to when your pet’s procedure will take place. We are advocates for the safety and quality of treatment for your pet and cannot rush to meet any particular time commitment.

#### **Update on your pet’s status:**

You will receive at least three phone calls from ADOS throughout the day.

1. The first call will alert you that we have begun the preanesthetic protocols for your pet. Typically this means that within approximately 30 to 45 minutes your pet will be under general anesthesia and you can anticipate the second call.
2. The second call will come when your pet has been stabilized under anesthesia and we have completed the oral examination (including intraoral radiographs.) Because the specialist is intimately involved with your pet under general anesthesia, one of our trained LVTs will place this call and will communicate the dentist’s final exam findings, treatment options/recommendations and cost estimate update for you. Remember, unless otherwise instructed, before we perform any procedure on your pet, or if additional problems are discovered while your pet is anesthetized, you will be contacted by phone to update the final oral exam confirm treatments options

and estimated costs. Therefore, it is essential that we have a home, work or cell number where you may be reached at all times.

3. The third phone call will be one of our staff members contacting you after your pet has recovered safely from anesthesia and will let you know when your pet will be ready for discharge. A time will be arranged that you may review discharge instructions, and pick up your pet.

**Patient Discharge:** One of the licensed technicians and/or Dr. Buelow will meet with you to discuss your pet's condition, treatment, homecare instructions and any necessary medication. Written instructions will also be provided. Please remember that your pet will experience some sedative effects so it is important to follow all discharge instructions closely.

**Will My Pet Require Hospitalization After the Procedure?** For most of our procedures, the patients do not require overnight hospitalization. For some of the more major oral procedures, hospitalization for patient monitoring, supportive care, sedation and pain management may be recommended. Occasionally for older patients or those with other serious health conditions (i.e. cardiac disease), hospitalization for a few extra hours to a day or two may be advised or necessary.

**Record Keeping and Communication with the Primary Care Veterinarian:** ADOS maintains excellent, detailed and typed medical and dental records for each patient. When a consultation has been scheduled by an owner, we contact the primary care veterinarian and obtain the pertinent medical history, previous diagnostic information and any lab findings. Prior to each consultation, the medical records are reviewed. Occasionally, additional health or diagnostic information is required. We will inform you of this, as well as, make this known with your primary care veterinarian. After each consultation, procedure or recheck medical records are updated and pertinent information is forwarded to the referring veterinarian detailing the oral findings, the patient's treatment and recommended follow-up care.

**Fee Estimates:** Clinical procedures are tailored to the specific needs of each pet. As a result, set fees cannot be established but rather are determined on a case-by-case basis. Because of the multitude of variables associated with individual patients and their oral problems, it is our policy not to provide estimates over the phone. Following your consultation, you will receive a written estimated range of fees for the total cost for your consultation and the treatment options you elect for your pet. Although fees rarely exceed the estimates given, if unexpected time and material usage is encountered, this could change.

**Payment:** Full payment is due when services are rendered. We accept cash, Visa, Discover, MasterCard, American Express and Care Credit (a low to no financing option for qualified applicants.)

**Cancellation Policy:** If an appointment is cancelled with less than 48 hours' notice, a \$25 cancellation fee will apply. If a client does not come in for a scheduled appointment and no call was made to cancel ahead of time, a deposit will need to be collected in order to reschedule.