

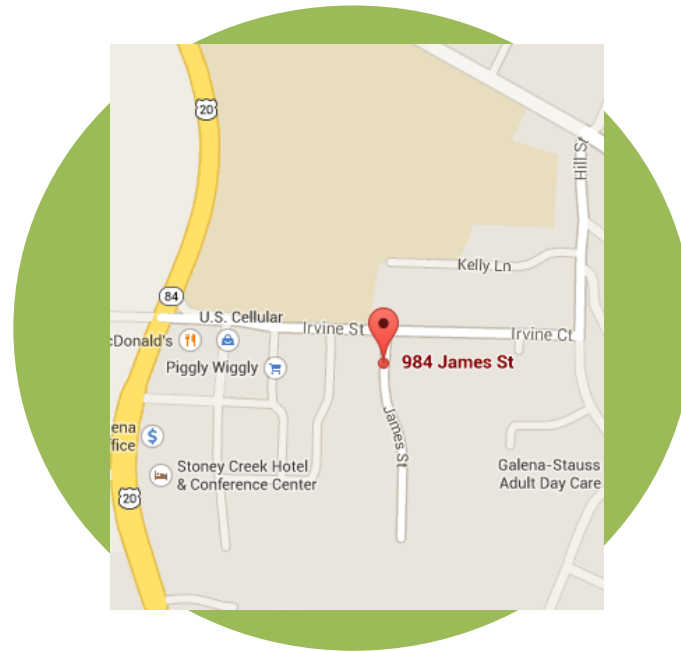
Checklist of Comparison

Do you wonder why an estimate for a procedure can vary from clinic to clinic? This checklist will help you compare “apples to apples” so you know what you are getting with your procedure. This will allow you to make an informed decision about your pet’s care.

The following things are included in our estimates:

Galena Square

- Pre-anesthetic blood testingyes
- Pre-operative sedativesyes
- Pre-operative pain medicationyes
- General anesthesiayes
- Anesthetic monitoring capabilitiesyes
 - EKGyes
 - Pulse oximeteryes
 - Blood pressureyes
- Dedicated anesthetist.....yes
- IV catheter and fluidsyes
- Nerve blocks for extractionsyes
- Dental charting.....yes
- Post-surgical pain medicationsyes
- Pet is held/monitored while wakingyes
- Doctor on call for after-hours questionsyes
- Detailed written aftercare instructionsyes
- No charge dental recheckyes



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A Guide to Comparing Veterinary

Dental

Services



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What questions should you ask and why?

Untreated or ineffectively treated dental disease can rob your pet of literally years of quality life. That's why it's so important that your pet receive regular, high quality dental care.

If you want the kind of dental care for your cherished pet that you want for yourself or another family member, you need to investigate the quality of care you are being offered by any veterinarian. Unfortunately, similar sounding procedures are frequently not the same at different veterinary hospitals.

To get high quality care, you need to choose a hospital with high standards. When asking about any service, please inquire as to what is included in the procedure that you are interested in. Also, inquire about what kind of monitoring is used for anesthesia. A good clinic should be happy to talk with you about all of these things.

Once you have all the appropriate information, you can make an informed choice as to what level of health care you would like for your pet.



- **Pre-anesthetic blood testing:** This is done to make sure that your pet's internal organs, such as liver and kidneys, are functioning correctly.
- **Pre-operative pain medication:** Studies have shown that pain medication given before a procedure is much more effective in preventing pain than pain medication given after the procedure only.
- **General anesthesia:** Dental procedures such as cleaning, polishing, and more intensive dental work **must** be done under general anesthesia. This sort of dental work is dangerous and ineffective if done without anesthesia.
- **Anesthetic monitoring:** The electrocardiogram, blood oxygen level, and blood pressure measurement are all very important since they can point to early signs of anesthetic problems when those problems can still be fixed.
- **Dedicated anesthetist:** It is vitally important for your pet's safety that there be someone present during the procedure whose only task is to monitor your pet. Would you be comfortable going under anesthesia if the only person in the room with you was the person performing the procedure?
- **IV Catheter and fluids:** An IV catheter allows instant access to the circulatory system if any emergency drugs need to be given. IV fluids are used to keep blood pressure in a safe range and help preserve kidney function during anesthesia.

- **Dental charting:** This allows us to track changes in each individual tooth's health so that we can take action before there is irreversible disease.
- **Nerve blocks for extractions:** Just as your dentist uses novocaine prior to working on one of your teeth, we use drugs to reduce the pain your pet experiences from tooth extractions and other dental work.
- **Post-surgical pain medication:** Any patient that has had a wisdom tooth removed knows, it takes several days after an extraction for the pain to away. That is why your pet should have pain medication for at least a few days after his or her extraction(s).
- **Staff member to monitor your pet as they wake up:** We closely monitor each pet as they are waking up from anesthesia. We take their temperature frequently and give them warm blankets to keep their temperature at a normal level.
- **Doctor on call for after-hours questions:** If you have any questions or concerns about your pet after the procedure, one of our doctors is always on call to help you.
- **No charge dental recheck exam:** To be sure that everything is going well, all of our dental patients receive a 2 weeks progress at no charge. At this appointment, we check extraction sites and we cover at home dental care.

