



## Dr. Andrea Wernham

### Veterinary Dental Practitioner

The Veterinary Dental Practitioner (VDP) program was established by Dr. Brett Beckman, a board-certified Veterinary Dentist, to provide training for General Practice veterinarians that want to provide a high level of dentistry for their patients. They are well-qualified veterinarians in General Practice to provide safe and proper oral care to your loved ones. However, they are not board-certified specialists.

## Prevention and Early Intervention is Key

Dental disease is graded from 0 (normal) to 4 (severe).

The ideal time to start performing COHATs is when pets are between 1 and 2 years of age - prior to the development of disease.

Prevention is ideal to treatment and without daily tooth brushing, it is very difficult to prevent plaque and tartar formation entirely.

Once we have reached grade 2 of dental disease, our pets are experiencing pain, discomfort and we may start to see some negative effects on xray.

In grade 3 and 4, our pets have infection in their mouth, with significant pain and they will require extraction of teeth.

Our goal is to perform COHATs routinely to prevent the extraction of teeth in the future and keep our pets feeling happy and pain-free.

### What are the Financing Options?

We understand that dental surgery is expensive, especially in later stages of disease.

Financing is available through ScratchPay.

We are unable to provide payment plans ourselves. You can apply online by clicking the link on our Client Resources tab.



## COMPREHENSIVE ORAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT (COHAT)

### Presqu'ile Animal Hospital

46 Price Edward St. Unit 11  
Brighton, ON Canada

Call or text: 613-475-5510  
[info@presquileanimalhospital.com](mailto:info@presquileanimalhospital.com)

For more details, visit our website  
[www.presquileanimalhospital.com](http://www.presquileanimalhospital.com)



## Treatment Plans

Treatment plans are provided to all patients in need of dental care. We will do our best to estimate costs accurately. If there are additional concerns noted during the COHAT, owners will be contacted to discuss next steps.

### Step 1: Prior to Surgery

Prior to scheduling a dental surgery, we will perform a complete physical examination and assess your pet's mouth while awake. We cannot judge what is beneath the gumline, but we do our very best to provide an accurate plan for any treatments that may be required.

Pre-Anesthetic Bloodwork is performed on all of our patients to help ensure fitness for undergoing anesthetic. We take every step possible to make the entire procedure as safe as possible. In some instances additional diagnostics such as an ECG, urinalysis or thoracic radiographs will be recommended.

Oral medications will be sent home to be given the morning of the procedure. Anesthetic drugs can make us (and pets) feel nauseous, so we send home a medication called Cerenia which is an anti-emetic. We want to reduce the risk of nausea and vomiting during the procedure, and have them return to eating as soon as possible. We also send home Fear Free medication to help reduce anxiety about being dropped off at the hospital for the day.

### Step 2: The Morning of Surgery

Your pet will be admitted on the morning of surgery by one of our Veterinary Technicians. Your pet will move into a warmed kennel after their intake examination.

Patients will receive an intramuscular injection for deeper sedation, have their IV catheter placed, IV fluids started and then be placed under full general anesthesia. Once your pet is safely asleep, we set up monitors to track blood pressure, temperature, heart rate, respiratory rate and more.

### Step 3: Full Mouth Radiographs

One of the most important parts of our examination is taking intra-oral dental radiographs under anesthetic. The amount of hidden periodontal disease (changes in the tooth roots and surrounding bone) that we discover by taking radiographs is astonishing!

Taking radiographs allows us to stage periodontal disease and the vitality of each individual tooth, allowing for treatment or extraction where required.

### Step 4: Examination /Assessment and Charting

The veterinarian will then perform a thorough examination of your pet's mouth. In addition to checking all surfaces of the teeth, we assess for cancer and disease by assessing facial symmetry, palpating the mandibles and lymph nodes, assessing the lips, tongue, and tonsils, and measuring periodontal pocket depth in multiple areas around every tooth

### Step 5: Treatments

If teeth are not-viable they need to be extracted. Extraction sites are sutured closed tension-free after removing diseased tissue by creating gingival flaps.

Dental extractions in pets are a bit different than humans. Our pets have much longer roots and this can make extraction more complex. We can also perform some specialized services here, such as sealants, restorations and more.

### Step 6: Clean and Polish

Scaling and cleaning away plaque and tartar deposits on healthy teeth using both ultrasonic scalers and hand scalers for a deep clean both above and below the gumline, followed with a polishing to smooth the enamel and make it more difficult for bacteria to adhere in the future.

### Step 7: Recovery

Patients are recovered by their Veterinary Technician and moved back into a warmed kennel. Frequent monitoring of vital parameters and pain scoring is completed to ensure our patients are comfortable and recovering well. Patients are encouraged to eat shortly after surgery.

### Step 8: Dental Follow Up

Patients will return 14 days after surgery for a follow up and to discuss dental home care options for the future.