

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**  
**DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE**  
**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA**

SOP#: 1107.2

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**TITLE:** **Veterinary Dental Scaler and Polisher**  
**SCOPE:** Research and Animal Care Personnel  
**RESPONSIBILITY:** Surgical Core Manager, Professional and Administrative Staff  
**PURPOSE:** To Outline the Proper Procedures for Use and Maintenance of a Veterinary Dental Scaler and Polisher

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**I. PURPOSE**

1. This procedure outlines the use and maintenance of a veterinary dental scaler and polisher system to provide dental health maintenance to a variety of species.

**II. RESPONSIBILITY**

1. It is the responsibility of the Facility Manager in conjunction with the Surgical Core Manager to ensure that equipment is appropriately cleaned, maintained in good working order, and available for research personnel as requested.
2. It is the responsibility of the veterinary professional, administrative, and managerial staff to ensure that all research and technical staff using this equipment are adequately trained and experienced to perform veterinary dental health maintenance.

**III. EQUIPMENT SET UP - SCALER**

1. Remove pump and cap assembly from portable water tank.
2. Fill tank with distilled water or chlorhexidine/distilled water mixture (following instructions on bottle) to the fill line mark.
3. Replace pump and cap assembly and tighten securely.
4. Pressurize tank by pumping approximately 10-20 times. As tank becomes pressurized the pressure relief valve knob will extend exposing a color band. Over pressurizing will result in a hissing sound.
5. Insert waterline from scaler into connection on water tank.
6. Plug scaler into outlet.
7. Turn selector switch to scale position.
8. Adjust power setting counter clockwise to minimum setting.

9. Set water control to maximum setting and depress foot switch to remove air from water line.
10. Insert sterile tip to nose cone and hand tighten clockwise (do not over tighten).
11. Set power and water controls to desired levels.

#### **IV. EQUIPMENT USE - SCALER**

1. All animals must be anesthetized (refer to SOP 1102)
2. Ensure endotracheal tube cuff is inflated to prevent inhalation of fluids.
3. Position animal with head lower than body by elevating body or tilting table.
4. Operator should wear personal protective equipment consisting of gloves, mask, cover gown and eye protection.
5. Place tip in patient's mouth and depress footswitch to activate scaler.
6. Tip should be applied gently to tooth and kept moving in an erasing motion over the entire surface of the tooth. **CAUTION:** Allowing the tip to remain in contact with the tooth for extended periods may cause damage to the tooth.
7. Repeat for remaining teeth.

#### **V. EQUIPMENT SET UP - POLISHER**

1. Plug micro-motor into receptacle on front of unit.
2. Install prophylaxis angle onto hand piece by aligning white and red dots to open chuck and align. Notch of prophylaxis angle w/ aligning pin on hand piece.
3. Rotate lock ring clockwise to align white dots and lock in place.
4. Snap disposable polishing cup to prophylaxis angle
5. Snap hand piece to micro-motor.
6. Set switch to "prophy" on front of unit.

#### **VI. EQUIPMENT USE – POLISHER**

1. Apply dental paste to prophylaxis cup and depress foot switch to begin polishing.
2. Adjust polisher speed to desired level by rotating knob.
3. Apply polisher cup to all surfaces of tooth. Do not allow cup to remain in contact with tooth for extended periods.

4. Reapply dental paste as needed.
5. Repeat for all teeth.

## **VII. MAINTENANCE**

1. Inspect condition of unit and electrical cord/plug to ensure safe operation. Equipment determined to be unsafe will be removed from service immediately.
2. Empty water tank after use, rinse, and allow to air dry thoroughly.
3. Do not store liquid in tank for extended periods.
4. Remove scaler from hand piece clean.
5. Clean unit, cords, hoses, prophylaxis angle, hand piece, and micro-motor by wiping with a mild disinfectant and soft cloth.
6. Any additional maintenance/service and autoclaving should be performed by authorized personnel.

## **VIII. REFERENCES**

Refer to manufacturer's manual for additional information.

**Approved:**

**Date:**