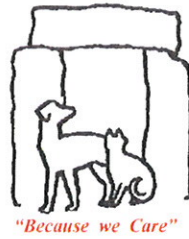


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PET DENTAL CARE - PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

Good pet dental hygiene is equally important to your pet as it is to you. While cavities do occur in both dogs and cats, periodontal (gum) disease is the most common and serious dental problem we encounter in the family pet.

PERIODONTAL DISEASE

Diseases of the gums are caused by a build up of plaque and calculus below the gum line. Plaque is a sticky, colourless, bacteria laden film which forms continually on the teeth. If it is not removed it hardens into calculus. The gums will recede as calculus builds up, forming bacteria filled pockets.

As the bacteria builds up it infects the gum tissues, the roots of the teeth and the bone that secures the teeth, eventually the teeth will fall out.

The dangerous aspect for your pet is this build up of bacteria, which is carried through the body by a large network of blood vessels near gums and teeth. As the body attempts to fight this continual onslaught of infection, damage can occur to the liver, kidneys and heart, all of which lowers your pet's resistance to illness.

WARNING SIGNS

Many pets suffer in silence with dental disease, others show acute pain while attempting to eat, and may refuse to eat. Depression in your pet, bad temper, reluctance to exercise, all of these symptoms are signs of a serious dental problem. An early sign of dental disease is **BAD BREATH** which should never be ignored, or passed off as being a 'doggy' smell. Healthy teeth are normally white, with pink, smooth gums which adhere tightly to the teeth. Diseases gums are thickened, reddened and bleed easily, the teeth may be discoloured, particularly towards the back of the mouth, with calculus showing.

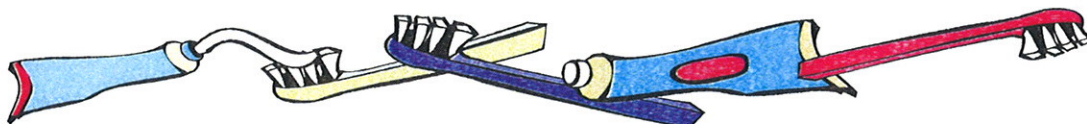
TREATMENT

If your pet's mouth is very sore and diseased, we may recommend a course of antibiotics to help clear up the infections. Then we will be in a position to safely anaesthetise your pet and remove the calculus by scaling and polishing the teeth, and to help prevent a build up of plaque in the future the teeth will be polished.

AT HOME

We have a full range of dog and cat tooth brushes and toothpaste, also gels and chews and special diets such as *Royal Canin Dental diet and oral bars* all of which help prevent the build up of plaque which causes dental disease. Please ask for a free sample.

If you are not sure how to check and clean your pet's teeth, please make an appointment with our nurses, this is a free service for you and your pet.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

