
WHY YOU SHOULD CARE FOR YOUR PET'S TEETH

First and foremost, to prevent pain! The risk of gingivitis and periodontal disease is the same for animals as it is for people. There is no reason to believe that animals do not feel the same pain of sore gums and a toothache that we feel. So, the main reason to care for your pet's teeth is to prevent pain.

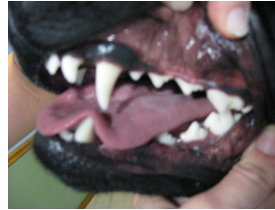
If you never brushed your teeth, your mouth would be sore and you would have trouble eating. You might feel tired all the time because the infection in your mouth would spread throughout your body. The exact same thing happens in your pet's mouth.

Plaque is a thick substance consisting of saliva, bacteria and food particles which forms 6 - 8 hours after brushing. It sticks to the teeth and collects in the pockets around the teeth. If not removed, an infection will result.

SIGNS OF GINGIVITIS

- Bad breath
- Drooling
- Difficulty chewing or eating
- Vomiting
- Gums swollen or red, may bleed
- Brownish-yellow tartar on teeth
- Receded gums
- Loose or missing teeth

LIFT A LIP AND CHECK THE BOX THAT MATCHES YOUR PET'S TEETH



Grade 1 - no tartar and no gingivitis



Grade 2 - mild tartar, mildly swollen gums with slight redness



Grade 3 - significant tartar with swollen, red gums and bad breath



Grade 4 - severe tartar, receding gums and loose teeth

Pets Need Dental Care, Too

Caring for your pet's teeth is extremely important!



Hours (by appointment only)

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday 8:00 AM - Noon

Thursday and Sunday - CLOSED

Phone: (800) 494-7211

Website: www.htph.com

DENTAL SERVICES:

- Dental exams
- Dental cleanings
- Dental polishing
- Dental restorations
- Dental extractions
- General anesthesia (gas)
- Local anesthesia (nerve block inj.)
- Digital dental x-rays
- Oral rinses
- Antibiotics (kill bacteria)
- Analgesics (painkillers)
- Sealants
- Acrylics

HOME DENTAL CARE TIPS

1. Start brushing their teeth as soon as possible. If you brush every day your pet will become familiar with the routine. Please note: You may need to stop brushing while your pet is losing its baby teeth. Their mouth will be a bit sore and handling may cause more pain. Continue once all the permanent teeth come in.

2. Work with your pet's mouth. Be patient and make it fun. Use love and praise, and try to practice at the same time each day to establish a routine. Choose a quiet time, such as late in the evening, or if your pet is highly motivated by food, try just before dinner so your pet will be rewarded for cooperation.

3. Handle the muzzle and touch your pet's lips and work up to rubbing the teeth and gums with your finger. Put a few drops of water flavored with low-sodium chicken or beef bouillon for dogs and tuna juice for cats in their mouth and they'll look forward to these sessions.

4. Use a bouillon- or tuna-flavored washcloth or a piece of gauze wrapped around the end of your finger to rub the teeth gently.

5. Finally, use a finger brush or a soft veterinary or human toothbrush to brush the teeth using the bouillon water or tuna juice. Hold the brush at a 45-degree angle to the tooth and brush gently back and forth or in a circular pattern from gum to tip.

6. Consider other dental aids. A large selection of veterinary toothpastes, oral rinses, and gels are available to you.

7. Pick kibble and rubber chew toys that will help keep the teeth clean.

THE DENTAL TREATMENT

Oral examination: A visual exam of the teeth, tongue, gums, palate and back of mouth to determine any dental disease.

Anesthesia: A professional veterinary dental cleaning requires general anesthesia. Your pet will first receive a sedating injection, then placed under general anesthesia. Body temperature, breathing and heart rate are monitored during the procedure.

Radiographs: X-rays provide additional information regarding the root and supporting bone of each tooth. This information allows for the development of an appropriate treatment plan.

Tartar removal: The process of calculus removal begins by removing large chunks of mineral deposits on the teeth. This allows for better examination of the teeth and gums. The crowns are cleaned above and below the gum line.

Extractions: Any teeth that cannot be saved are removed at this time. A local anesthetic, in addition to general anesthetic, is used to prevent post-op pain.

Polishing : A pliable rubber-tipped tool is used to apply a fine-grit polishing paste to smooth the enamel surfaces of the teeth.

Recovery: Your pet is closely observed during recovery from anesthesia. Once your pet is awake and able to walk on her own, you may take her home.