



Pet Dental Health Care

Dental disease is one of the most common conditions seen by veterinarians

The most common cause of dental disease is due to tartar and calculus accumulation. As in humans, animals accumulate bacterial plaque on the surface of their teeth. If the plaque is not removed quickly, it becomes mineralized to form tartar and calculus. The bacterial products and decaying food stuck to tartar are one potential cause of bad breath. Humans brush after eating a meal to solve this problem, most animals do not.

Tartar is easily identified by its tan or brown color. It normally starts at the gum edge, especially on the back teeth called the premolars and molars. In severe cases, tartar and calculus may cover the entire tooth.

The accumulation of tartar and bacteria on the teeth surfaces lead to infection and **gingivitis** or inflammation of the gums. This can many times be seen by the presence of pus. If the disease is caught at an early stage and a thorough veterinary dental scaling and polishing performed, most of the teeth and gums will have a full recovery. However, if gingivitis is allowed to persist untreated, then irreversible **periodontal disease** will occur. This will lead to infection of the tooth and eventual tooth loss. In addition, infection in the gums can spread to other areas of the body leading to infections in the kidney, liver, or even heart.

Successful Dental Care For Your Pet Consists of Three Steps:

- *Routine dental evaluations-*
 - Just like people, it is recommended that our animal companions have a dental evaluation twice a year. A dental evaluation is a quick process that can easily be done at the same time as other preventative medicine recommendations.

- *Professional care from your veterinarian when needed-*
 - Routine dental cleanings should be done prior to the onset of gingivitis. Animals are safely placed under a general anesthetic to receive x-rays, ultrasonic scaling, and polishing. Any advanced dental needs can be identified at this time as well.

- *Preventative care at home-*
 - The best dental home care for our companions should consist of brushing 1-2 times daily. Several types of tooth brushes are available to aid in this task. In the event that is not an option, several other products are available to help.
 - Dental diets: diets designed for dental care can be fed as the primary diet or just used for a daily treat
 - CET Chews: Similar to raw hide chews, CET chews are infused with dental cleaning agents and are fully digestible in the event of ingestion.
 - Oral rinse & Water additive: Similar to fluoride mouth washes used by people, animals have available an oral hygiene rinse or even water additives to help keep those pearly whites sparkling.

Home Care Products

- Dual end toothbrush
- Finger-brush
- Toothpaste
- Oral hygiene rinse
- CET Aquadent water additive
- Veggie dent chews
 Small & Regular
- DentaHex Chews
 Petite, Medium & Large