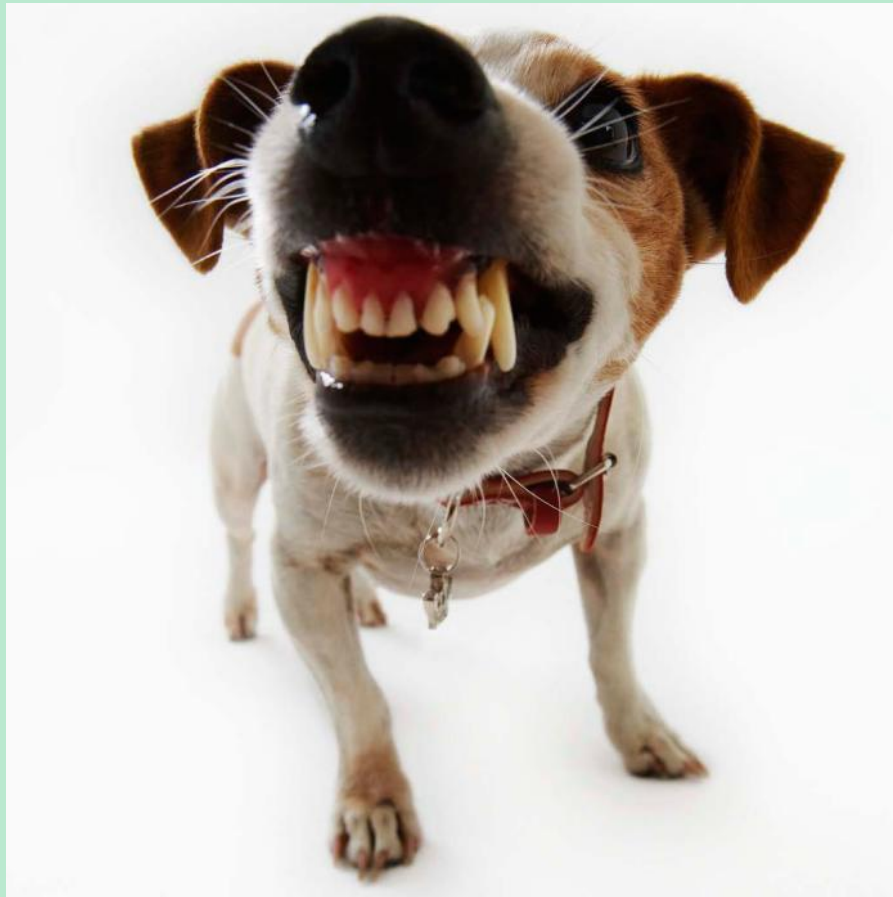


DENTAL HEALTH AND HOME CARE FOR YOUR PET



Did You Know...



- Periodontal Disease (gum disease) is one of the most common medical conditions seen by veterinarians.
- Over 85% of dogs and cats, older than four years, have periodontal concerns.
- One milligram of plaque contains over one-trillion bacteria that can cause disease.
- By keeping up with your pets dental care, you can extend their life expectancy by 3-5 years.

What is Gum Disease?

- Gum disease, or Periodontal Disease, is the inflammation of some or all of the tooth's support structures (including the gums and bone). Gum disease is caused by bacteria.



Stage 1



Stage 2



Stage 3



Stage 4

Bad Breath 101

□ What is Halitosis?

Halitosis is another word for bad breath.

□ What causes Halitosis?

The most common cause of Halitosis is plaque, (or bacterial buildup) on the teeth.

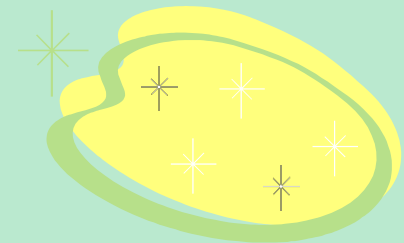
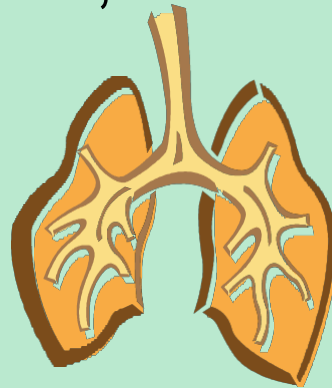
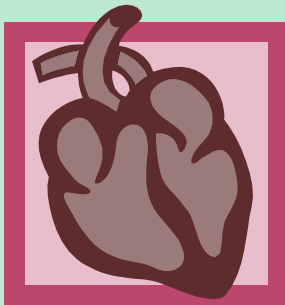


Severe Periodontal
Disease causing

Effects of Dental Disease



- ❑ The discomfort in your pet's mouth may lead to the inability to chew food or reluctance to eat.
- ❑ Behavioral problems may occur (biting, hiding, marking, irritability, etc).
- ❑ Bacteria from the mouth can travel through the bloodstream affecting vital organs such as the heart, lungs, liver, and kidneys.



Myths About Dental Care



- **Dental cleanings are purely cosmetic.**
 - They do make your pet's pearly whites, white again, but they also remove harmful bacteria that cause gum disease.
- **Dogs and cats do not feel pain the way people do.**
 - Just as you get a toothache or sore gums, pets can experience these pains too, especially if they do not receive regular dental care.
- **A dog or cat's mouth is cleaner than a human's.**
 - Most pets do not receive a daily brushing, so bacteria is left building up in their mouths. (Ever wonder where the bad breath comes from?)

How to Protect Your Pet



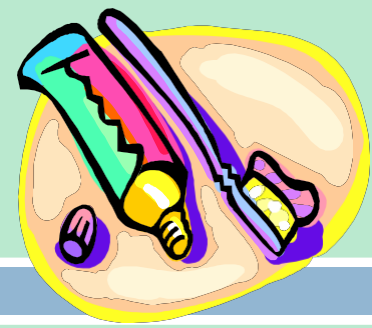
- Bring your pet in for a dental exam where your veterinarian will assess your pet's mouth.
- Your veterinarian will be able to tell you if a professional cleaning is in order.
- If a cleaning is not needed then home care will be discussed.

What Happens During My Pet's Dental Cleaning?

With Anesthesia

- All surfaces of the teeth are cleaned
- Can clean beneath and between the gums
- Provides thorough charting of all the teeth
- Able to take full mouth radiographs
- Can provide all treatments at once i.e. if there are extractions
- Safer for the technician, as the animal is unable to bite
- Can adequately polish teeth to prevent cavities and other problems

Dental Care At Home



It is important to talk to your vet about routine dental care that you can provide for your pet at home.

- Ask your vet about the following products and if they're right for your pet!
 - Oxyfresh
 - Maxiguard Gel
 - Brushing Teeth
 - C.E.T. Chews
 - Oravet Sealant
 - Tartar Shield Chews

Additional Information



- Please contact your veterinarian for more information.

- Sources
 - American Animal Hospital Association
 - <http://www.aahanet.org>
 - Merial
 - <http://www.oravet.us.merial.com>
 - American Veterinary Dental Society
 - <http://avds-online.org>