

# 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.

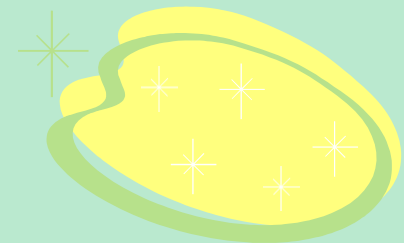
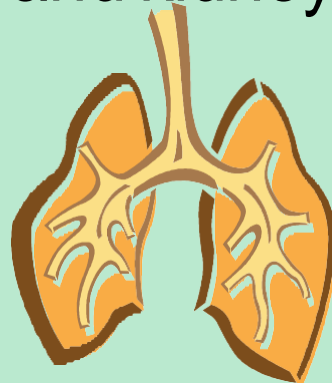
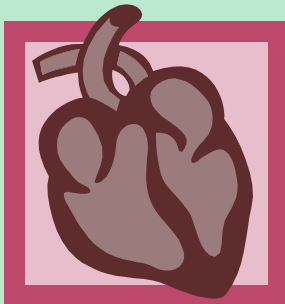


Severe Periodontal Disease  
causing Halitosis

# 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 causes gum disease.
- **Dogs and cats do not feel pain the way people do.**
  - Just as you get a tooth ache 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?)
- **Anesthesia-free dental cleanings are as effective as anesthetic cleanings.**
  - See page 8 for facts.

# 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 Type of Cleaning is Best for My Pet?

## 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

## Without Anesthesia

- Only cleans the outside of the teeth and the crown
- Unable to adequately chart all teeth
- Unable to take dental radiographs.
- May cost more money if the animal needs further treatment under anesthesia
- Not as safe for the vet (they can be bitten by the animal)
- Can damage the tooth or gums if the animal moves during treatment



# 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!
  - Clenz-A-Dent Oral Rinse
  - Clenz-A-Dent Plaque Off
  - Brushing Teeth
    - C.E.T. Chews
  - Enzadent Fingerbrush Kit
  - 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>