



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| FAQ: | 2 |
| DENTALS | |
| ASK THE VET | 2 |
| HOLIDAY HAZARDS | 3 |
| HOME DENTAL CARE | 3 |
| CLINIC NOTES/ FOOD DRIVE | 4 |
| FEATURED BREEDS | 5 |

DID YOU KNOW?

"Without proper dental care, 80% of dogs and 70% of cats show signs of oral disease by age three."

PET DENTAL MONTH

Each February, All Creatures actively participates in a national campaign to help educate pet owners on the importance of dental care. We will be offering a \$45 savings on your pet's dental during the month of February.

Have you ever wondered what happens to your pet when they spend a day at the dentist? Allow us to provide you with a brief description of our comprehensive oral care and assessment.

Pre-operative Preparation

In most cases, the doctor will recommend a pre-anesthetic blood test prior to the dental procedure. If these test results (or previous, recent blood work) are within acceptable limits, we will give your pet a sedative to help her relax. An IV catheter is placed which allows anesthetic drugs, IV fluids and if necessary, emergency drugs to be administered in a quick and safe manner. IV fluid administration during any procedure involving anesthesia helps support blood pressure and aids the body's metabolism and excretion of the anesthetic.

Next, an endotracheal tube is placed in your pet's airway which helps to deliver anesthetic gas to your pet and assures that

the airway is protected from fluid and debris getting into the lungs. Throughout the procedure, the technician will continuously monitor your pet's respiration, blood pressure, and heart rate.

The Dental Procedure

Dental x-rays may be recommended to help diagnose problems that cannot be seen by visual inspection. The next step is scaling, which involves removing deposits of calculus from the surface of the teeth using an ultrasonic scaling instrument, just as our dentist does. The vet will determine if any extractions are necessary, due to significant infection, fractures or root exposure. Lastly, the surface of each tooth is polished to create a smooth surface and slowing the recurrence of calculus.

Recovery and Release

Your pet then spends the remainder of the day with us while we monitor her recovery. Later that afternoon, she will be sent home with antibiotics or pain medication if the vet deems appropriate. That evening she can have small amounts of food and water. Please allow your pet a quiet evening to rest. By the following day, your pet should be recovered and ready to return to normal activity.

FAQS: DENTAL ISSUES

What does my pet's bad breath come from?

Halitosis can come from several different sources. The most common source is overgrowth of bacteria in the mouth. Some of these bacteria produce sulfur compounds as waste products which impart an unpleasant smell to the breath. Another source is kidney or gastrointestinal disease, which should be ruled out by your veterinarian.

My cat picks up his food and drops it. Sometimes his mouth opens and closes rapidly when this happens.

Why?

Dropping food may be a sign of tooth pain caused by a condition similar to tooth decay. This pet should be examined; dental radiographs may also be necessary.

Why must my pet's teeth be pulled?

Teeth are usually extracted because of severe periodontal disease, fractures, resorptive lesions, misalignment, and other problems that cause discomfort or difficulty in chewing.

My pet has both baby and adult teeth in place. What should I do?

This is a common problem, particularly in small breeds. The baby teeth must be surgically removed to allow sufficient room for the adult teeth. If this is not done as soon as it is discovered it may cause permanent orthodontic problems. Please have them evaluated right away.

Do you have to use anesthesia to clean my pet's teeth?

Anesthesia is necessary when performing teeth cleaning. Anesthesia provides three important functions: immobilization in order to clean below the gum line, pain control, and the ability to place a tube into the windpipe, so bacterial products do not enter the respiratory system.

**Schedule your appointment
for a dental in February for a
\$45 discount!
Appointments fill up quickly!**

ASK THE VET

Q: Why is my pet scooting his/her rear end on the carpet?

A: This behavior is most commonly a sign of full anal gland sacs. The anal glands are little sacs that are located on the inside of each side of the rectum. The pet secretes a liquid from its anal glands while it defecates. Some pets' anal glands don't secrete completely or at all. That's when they become itchy and painful. Your vet or technician can express the anal glands to relieve your pet of any discomfort. It is important to have the anal glands expressed regularly to prevent an infection or becoming impacted. See your vet if your pet is displaying any signs of scooting their bottom across the floor, constant chewing at the base of the tail, or licking their rectum constantly. This could also be the sign of allergies or parasites. 🐾

HOLIDAY HAZARDS

The last thing you want to do on a holiday is take your pet to an emergency hospital with an injury, poisoning or even an upset stomach. Here is a list of common objects, foods and decorations that pose a threat to your pets during the holiday season.

-Table scraps: Fatty foods, like meat trimmings, poultry skin and gravy can cause severe upset stomachs and even pancreatitis.

-Bones: Even well cooked bones are hollow and break and splinter easily. The results are sharp pieces that can choke the dog or block/tear the intestines. A pet that has a bone or fragment of one lodged in his intestine may not even show symptoms for a few days. When they do occur they may include loss of appetite, depression, vomiting, or diarrhea.

-Holiday foods: Other foods to avoid include chocolate, raisins, grapes, nuts, mushrooms, garlic, onions, coffee, tea, alcohol, and sugar free candy/gum which contains xylitol.

-Decorative plants: Holly, mistletoe and poinsettia can be toxic to pets.

-Decorations: Holiday lights, ribbons, tinsel, and ornaments all pose a threat to pets if ingested.



ASPCA
24 HOUR EMERGENCY
ANIMAL POISON CONTROL CENTER
888-426-4435
WWW.ASPCA.ORG

This list is by no means all-inclusive, but hopefully it will help you make your home a safer place during the holidays. If you have any concerns, please contact us or an emergency clinic immediately. 🐾

HOME DENTAL CARE

Brushing your pet's teeth at home may seem like a chore, but it is an important



part of your pet's health. Be upbeat and take things slowly. Keep sessions short and positive, offering lots of praise throughout.



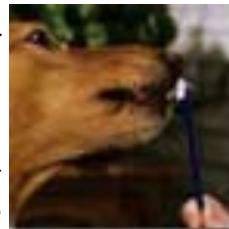
Step 1 - Acquaint your dog with the process

For the first few sessions don't

even use a toothbrush. Gently stroke the *outside* of their cheeks with your finger. After they become comfortable with that, place a dab of pet toothpaste on your finger and let them taste it.

Step 2 - Introduce the Toothbrush

Place a small amount of toothpaste on the brush. In a slow circular motion, brush one or two teeth and the adjoining gum line. The purpose of this step is to get your dog accustomed to the feel of the brush.



Step 3 - Begin Brushing

Over the next several days, gradually increase the number of teeth brushed. It is important to eventually brush the rear teeth where plaque and tartar have a greater tendency to accumulate. If they discover that fussing makes you stop quicker, then this brushing business is going to get harder, not easier. Build up to about 30 seconds per side. Be sure to brush the big teeth way in back. Stop each session while it is still fun and lavishly praise your dog afterwards. 🐾



CLINIC REMINDERS

- ◆ **All Creatures holiday hours:**
 Monday, December 24: 7:00 – 12:00
 Tuesday, December 25: CLOSED
 Monday, December 31: 7:00 – 12:00
 Tuesday, January 1: CLOSED
- ◆ **A 24 hour notice is required on all medication refills.** Please be aware when your pet is nearing the end of their supply, so that we can be alerted in time to ensure no lapse in medications. If you need a refill from a secondary source (i.e. a compounding pharmacy, Pet-Meds, Walgreens) please contact them for a refill. They will fax us a request, which we can have that doctor review and send back at the earliest convenience (within 24 hours). Additionally, please make sure you pay attention to your prescription labels for reminders of lab work required before the next refill. Your understanding and cooperation with this matter is greatly appreciated.
- ◆ **Pet Pals Rewards Program:** If you love your care and service at All Creatures, please refer a friend. When they provide your name during their first visit, your account will automatically be credited \$25! As a welcome, they will also receive \$25 off their first visit!



HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

December 1 - December 31

Help us in helping the needy pets throughout the community, by donating pet food during the holiday season.

Bring in at least 5 cans or 1 bag of pet food and receive a \$10 credit on your account!*

**Limit one \$10 credit per account*



Make sure you share your holiday pet photos with us on our Facebook page!

Facebook.com/AllCreaturesClinic



FEATURED BREED: BOSTON TERRIER

The Boston Terrier is gentle, alert, very intelligent, well-mannered and enthusiastic. They make wonderful



family companions and are good with children. Their intelligence ensures they pick things up quickly, there-

fore making them fairly easy to train. However, without the proper amount of mental and physical exercise it can become rambunctious and a bit high strung.

Health issues may include eye problems such as corneal ulcers and cataracts. These short-faced dogs may have breathing difficulties when stressed by exertion in hot or cold weather and can overheat if they are pushed

too hard. They are also known to snore or drool. Deafness and patellar luxations are also seen in this breed.

The Boston Terrier has earned the nickname "American Gentleman" due to it's markings looking like they are wearing a tuxedo. They can be either brindle with white markings, black with white markings, or "seal" (black with a red cast)

with white markings. Their average life span is generally 12-15 years.

[Arizona Boston Terrier Rescue](#)

[www.http://www.azbtrescue.org](http://www.azbtrescue.org)

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| ENERGY | 🐾 🐾 🐾 |
| TRAINABILITY | 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾 |
| GROOMING | 🐾 |
| WATCHDOG | 🐾 🐾 🐾 |
| EXERCISE | 🐾 🐾 🐾 |
| CHILDREN | 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾 |

FEATURED BREED: RUSSIAN BLUE

This elegant distinguished breed is unlike any other in both looks and personality. The Russian Blue sports a short, dense 'blue' coat, with

each hair tipped in silver. This silver tipping gives the cat a striking silvery sheen, which is set off by its big emerald green eyes.

Quiet, sensitive and usually shy with strangers, the Russian Blue is hard to get to know initially but will be tremendously loyal to its (carefully) chosen human. One of the Blue Russian's vulnerabilities is its tendency

to be startled easily. This breed does not like change, preferring for things to be predictable. It can be thrown off when dinner-

time is altered, and is nit-picky about hygiene.



| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| ACTIVITY | 🐾 🐾 🐾 |
| AFFECTION | 🐾 🐾 🐾 |
| VOCALITY | 🐾 |
| INTELLIGENCE | 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾 |
| INDEPENDENCE | 🐾 🐾 |
| GROOMING | 🐾 |

[HALO Animal Rescue](#)

<http://www.halorescue.org>

[Cow Cats Pet Adoption](#)

<http://www.cowcats.com>

[AZ Humane Society](#)

<http://www.azhumane.com>

FEATURED CREATURE: CHINCHILLA



Chinchillas are crepuscular rodents (meaning they are most active at dawn and dusk, like rabbits) native to the Andes mountains in South America. They are known for their distinctive, silky-soft fur coat. Chinchillas typically live about fifteen years, and if handled from a young age can be tame and enjoy bonding with humans.

One of the most unusual things about caring for your chinchilla is that this pet requires regular dust baths to their coat in beautiful condition.

Chinchillas like a regular routine for handling and feeding times. They like a fairly quiet environment, and need a spacious cage with a spot to hide and room to exercise. Chinchillas need to chew, so chew toys, wood blocks or pumice stones should be incorporated into their environment to keep their teeth healthy.



Christine **Vivian**

Courtney Rae **Carrie**

Jenell **Courtney C.** **Jessica Y.**

Jessica G. **Charlotte** **Jenn**

Dr. Roberts **Dr. Ingram** **Dr. Bob**



*The All Creatures family wishes
you a wonderful holiday season
and a joyous new year!*