



## EXOTIC PETS

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### MOST COMMON EXOTICS AT ALL CREATURES

- Birds
- Hamsters
- Guinea Pigs
- Turtles/Tortoises
- Rats
- Rabbits
- Ferrets
- Bearded Dragons

Here at All Creatures, our doctors take care of many different types of animals besides cats and dogs- turtles, small lizards, birds, rabbits, ferrets, rats, hamsters, guinea pigs, the occasional snake, and even more... Many of these animals seem to be a less expensive alternative than a dog or cat, as they often cost less to acquire and may not need vaccinations or spaying/neutering. However, veterinary services can be more challenging and expensive than expected since their care requires further education and experience. There is definitely more involved in properly caring for an exotic pet than meets the eye.

For example, all reptiles have very specific dietary and environmental requirements which must be met in order for them to thrive. It can be even more difficult to tell when something is wrong than with a cat or dog because these animals are more limited in their activities.



Rodents are some of the least expensive pets to acquire, but their life spans tend to be shorter for a number of reasons.

Many species are prone to various cancers, and respiratory ailments. It is also much easier to lose these animals to an

accident since they are small and quick.

Rabbits are longer lived than rodents and can also be fun pets. They need socialization just like a cat or dog, though, and are generally both emotionally and physically fragile so their home environments are key. Similarly, ferrets also need socialization and are not meant to be cage-bound



but their high energy and extreme curiosity can get them into a fair amount of trouble!

Speaking of longer lived, birds can live a very long time-some of the larger species have the life span of humans! Therefore, the decision to get a bird should not be taken lightly as you will be entering into a long-term commitment.

This article is not to dissuade anyone from acquiring an animal other than a dog or cat. However, it is even more crucial to do your research. Think about the reasons behind your desire for such an animal and what responsibilities are involved in meeting their needs.



As with any pet, they deserve the best you and your family have to offer!

## FEBRUARY IS PET DENTAL HEALTH MONTH!



Would you let years go by between visits to the dentist? Probably not! Your pet's dental health is just as important to his or her overall health as your dental health is to your general health.

Dental care of dogs and cats is one of the most commonly overlooked areas of pet health care. In fact, a recent AAHA study showed that approximately two-thirds of pet owners do not provide the dental care that is recommended as essential by veterinarians. What's more, the American Veterinary Dental Society reports that 80 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats show signs of oral disease by age three.

Dental disease doesn't affect just the mouth. It can lead to more serious health problems including heart, lung and kidney disease, which makes it all the more important that you provide your pets with proper dental care from the start.

To celebrate National Pet Dental Health month, we are offering \$50 off a dental cleaning in the month of February. So what all does a "dental cleaning" entail?

**Pre-anesthetic exam** — Whenever anesthesia is needed, special considerations are taken to help ensure the safety of your pet. Your veterinarian will thoroughly examine your pet to make sure she's healthy enough to undergo anesthesia. Depending on your pet's age and general physical condition, your veterinarian may also run bloodwork to check for issues with the heart, kidney, or liver, as well as any other conditions.

**Anesthesia monitoring** — During anesthesia, the monitoring and recording of your pet's vital signs (such as body temperature, heart rate, and respiration, as well as other important factors) is important. This helps ensure the safety of your pet while undergoing anesthesia.

**Dental radiographs** — Radiographs (x-rays) of the teeth are sometimes needed periodically in order to completely evaluate your pet's oral health. X-rays aid the veterinarian greatly in detecting abnormalities that cannot be detected under examination alone. In some cases, x-rays can confirm the need for extraction of teeth that are loose or badly infected.

**Scaling & Polishing** — Veterinarians are advised to use similar instruments as human dentists to remove plaque and calculus from your pet's teeth. To smooth out any scratches in the tooth enamel, polishing with a special paste is also recommended.



Before Dental Cleaning

After Dental Cleaning

**Fluoride/sealants** — The application of an anti-plaque substance, such as a fluoride treatment and/or a barrier sealant is also advised. This can help strengthen and desensitize teeth as well as decrease future plaque.

# WHAT NOT TO FEED YOUR PETS

We all love to spoil our pets by giving them a tasty treat once in a while, but not all foods are suitable for your pets. The following are best kept away from your furry friends...

## DOGS



### Avocado

This can be toxic to dogs in large amounts as it contains persin, something which is found in the fruit, leaves, seeds and bark.



### Salty foods

Sodium ion poisoning can occur if your dog has too much salty food, so it's best not to share things like chips and pretzels with them.



### Peaches & plums



The pits in these fruits contain cyanide which is poisonous to animals and people - we know not to swallow this, but dogs don't!



### Grapes & raisins

These fruits can cause kidney failure in dogs but it's not clear why. Keep them off counters as even a small amount could make your dog ill.



### Sugary foods

As with humans, too much sugary food and drink can lead to obesity, dental problems and the onset of diabetes.



### Caffeine

There's little you can do with a cat that's consumed a large quantity of caffeine, so make sure to keep things like coffee and energy drinks out of their reach.



### Raw fish

Salmon, trout, shad and sturgeon contain parasites which could cause "fish disease", something which may be fatal within two weeks if left untreated.



### Lilies

Certain types of lilies could be very toxic to your cat. If pollen or a leaf is ingested, poisoning could result.



### Onions, garlic, chives & leeks

Small amounts taken regularly or a large quantity taken at once can destroy a cat's red blood cells, causing anemia.



### Raw eggs

Because they're rich in protein, cooked eggs are great for both humans and cats. But E coli and salmonella are a risk from raw eggs, so don't feed them to your cat.

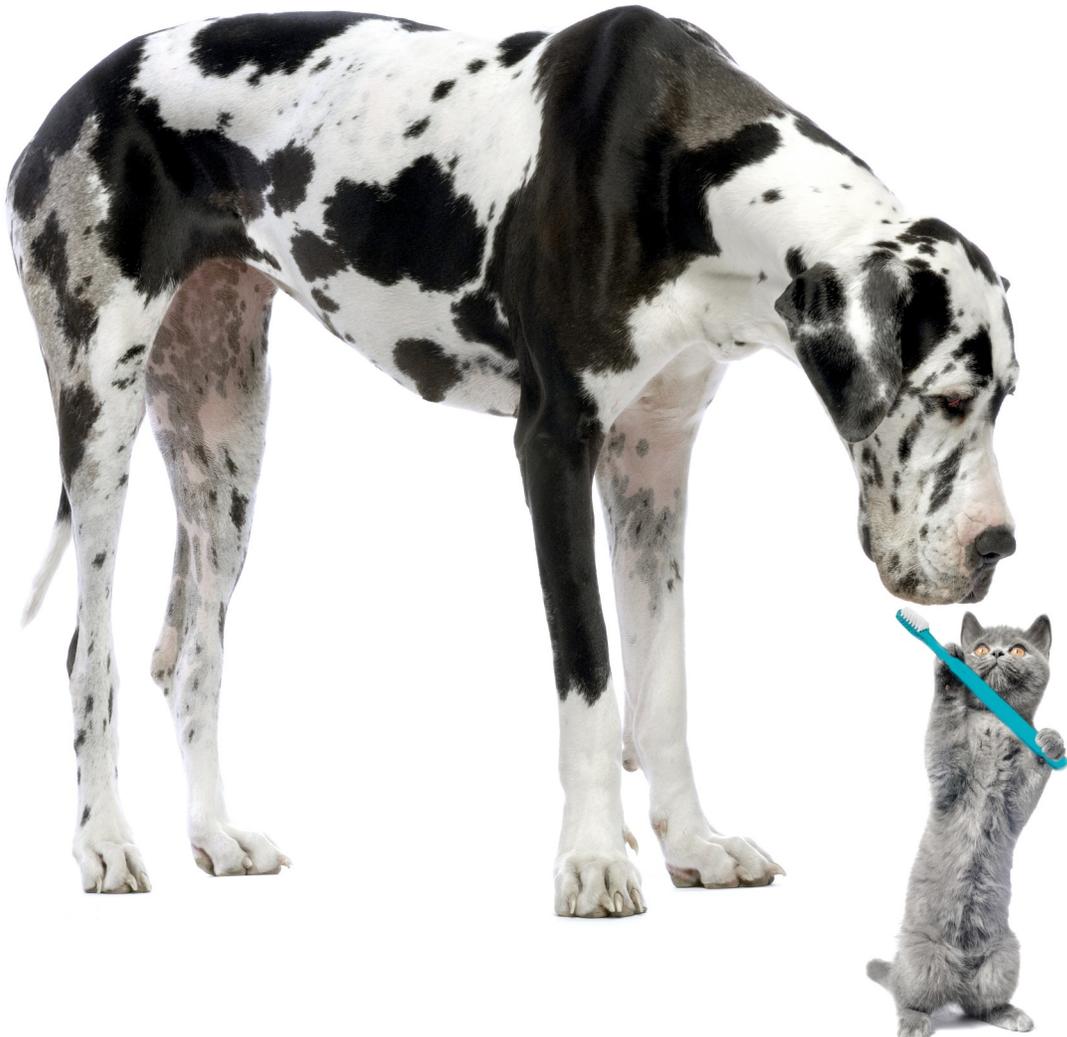
**Other foods not to feed your dog include:** Macadamia nuts, alcohol, chocolate and bread/yeast dough.

**Other foods not to feed your cat include:** Chocolate, alcohol, grapes, raisins, and bread/yeast dough.

## CLINIC NOTES

- ◆ It is our policy to require 24 hour notice on all medication refills. Please be aware of when your pet is nearing the end of their supply, so that we can be alerted in time to prevent any lapse in medications. If you need a refill from a secondary source (i.e. compounding pharmacy, PetMeds, Walgreens), please contact them. They will fax us a request which the doctor will review and fax back at the earliest convenience (within 24 hours). Additionally, please make sure you pay attention to prescription labels for reminders of lab work or rechecks required before the next refill. Your understanding and cooperation with this matter is appreciated.
- ◆ Please notify a receptionist if there are any changes to your phone number, address or email.
- ◆ For the safety and consideration of other clients and pets, please make sure your dog is on a leash at all times. If you forgot one, please ask the receptionist and we would be happy to give you one to use for your visit.
- ◆ 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 be credited \$25! As a welcome, they will also receive \$25 off their first visit!
- ◆ Some medications may be available through a "human" pharmacy. If you are interested in this option, please discuss with the veterinarian.

**Receive \$50 off your dental in the  
month of February!**



**Call today to schedule!  
Spaces are filling up quickly!**