

## Your Pet & Dental Care

### ? Did you know.....

- Most pets have periodontal disease by the time they are 3 years of age.
- Dental disease can result in bad breath, painful chewing & tooth loss.
- Bacteria under the gum can travel to the heart, kidneys, and liver.
- A professional dental cleaning is required to remove plaque and tartar from a pet's teeth and to assess the health of the mouth.
- A thorough dental cleaning requires that the pet be under anesthesia.

### Why does my pet need their teeth cleaned?

Periodontal disease starts when bacteria combine with food particles to form plaque on the teeth. Within days, minerals in the saliva bond with the plaque to form tartar, a hard substance that adheres to the teeth. The bacteria work their way under the gums and cause gingivitis—inflammation of the gums. Once under the gums, bacteria destroy the supporting tissue around the tooth, leading to tooth loss. This condition is known as periodontitis. Gingivitis and periodontitis make up the changes that are referred to as periodontal disease. The bacteria associated with periodontal disease can also travel in the bloodstream to infect the heart, kidneys, and liver. A professional veterinary dental cleaning is the best way to remove tartar from the teeth and under the gum tissue to protect your pet's health.






### What to expect?

- Sedation to keep your pet free of pain during the procedure
- Removal of visible plaque and tartar from the teeth
- Elimination of plaque and tartar from under the gum line
- Probing of dental sockets to assess dental disease
- Polishing to smooth enamel scratches that may harbor bacteria
- Application of fluoride or a dental sealer
- Removal of fractured or infected teeth
- Dental charting so progression of dental disease can be monitored
- Inspection of the lips, tongue, and entire mouth for growths, wounds, or other problems

### How Do I Know if My Pet Needs A Dental Cleaning?

Regular inspection of your pet's mouth is important to catch dental disease in the early stages. Tartar may appear as a brownish-gold buildup on the teeth, close to the gum line. Redness or bleeding along the gum line may indicate gingivitis.

Other signs of dental disease include:

-  Bad breath
-  Drooling
-  Pawing at the mouth
-  Difficulty chewing
-  Loose or missing teeth

If you notice any of these signs in your pet, contact us at 501-977-0063 to set up a cleaning for your pet.