

Dental Care

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As with people, pets need to have good oral hygiene to keep a healthy set of teeth and gums throughout their life. However, over 70% of middle aged (5 years) and older cats and dogs have some degree of periodontal disease. Such oral health problems begin with a build up of plaque, which can then harden and form tartar. Plaque and tartar lead to painful inflamed gums (gingivitis), which then can develop into periodontal disease. This disease can damage the roots of the tooth resulting in tooth loss, severe tooth ache, serious infection causing bad breath and further gingivitis. Eventually bacteria from the gums can enter the bloodstream and spread to the vital organs such as heart, liver and kidney.

Many pets will not exhibit signs of tooth ache and often it is not until the problem is fixed that you notice just how much more lively and happy they are. There are a number of signs of dental disease you may notice in your pet. A veterinary examination can determine the extent of dental disease in your pet and you will be advised whether a dental treatment or just a few homecare cleaning tips are indicated. We recommend regular dental check-ups for all pets, but specific signs you may notice which strongly suggest dental disease include:

- ∟ Bad breath
 - ∟ Build up of yellow-brown tartar on teeth
 - ∟ Red swollen or bleeding gums
 - ∟ Dribbling saliva
 - ∟ Tooth loss
 - ∟ Wanting to eat, then becoming fussy once offered food
 - ∟ Subdued behavior-often interpreted in older pets as “old age”
- Following treatment, good oral health can be maintained with specific diets and certain cleaning techniques.