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# Vets Love Pets!



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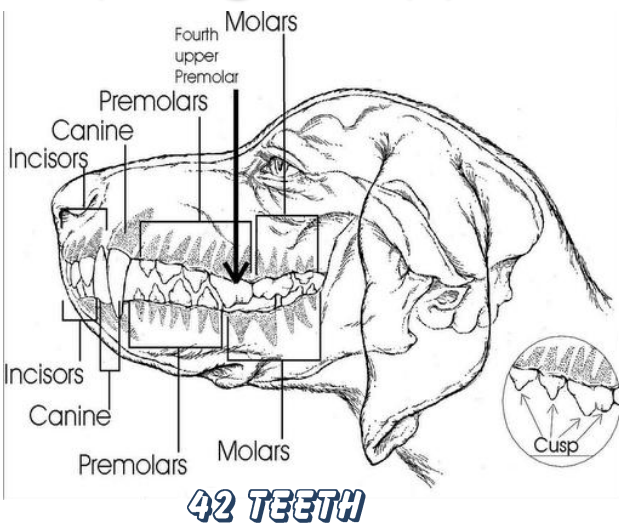
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## Dental Disease

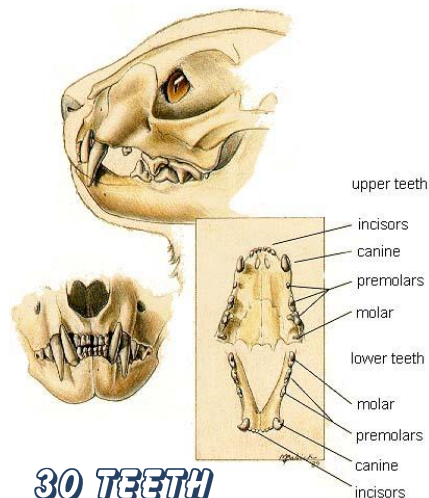
### Some Startling Facts...

- Studies done by the American Veterinary Dental Society indicate that about 80% of our pets will start to show signs of dental disease by age 3.
- Unfortunately smaller dogs are more prone to getting dental disease because of their rather large teeth compared to their mouth size. Teeth are often crowded, or crooked, allowing bacteria to hide out in little crevices.
- The most common dental condition that cats get is called odontoclastic resorptive lesions. This is a big word, but basically can be described as a severe cavity in the tooth right at the edge of the gum line. Pulp tissue is exposed and because this is the part of the tooth that contains the nerves and blood vessels—once exposed can bleed and be very painful to the cat.
- Finally, infection in the mouth can lead to infection throughout the body. If there is bacteria in the mouth, as the pet chews, the gums often bleed, saturating the bloodstream with bacteria. With every pump of the heart, this infected blood travels to vital organs such as the heart, lungs, kidneys, and liver. These organs then need to fight off the bacteria, and if unable to do so, often these animals will go into organ failure or shutdown.

### The Canine Mouth



### The Feline Mouth



Enjoy a night out: Dental Night March 22, 2012 at 6:30. Wine, cheese, and other goodies!! Please speak with one of the front team members to reserve your spot!!

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# What signs to look for...

There are many signs your pet may show that can indicate dental disease, however, the most important sign is that **YOUR PET MAY NOT SHOW ANY SIGNS**. Remember, that pets mask their signs of pain, and discomfort. In the wild, they do not want other animals to know they are sick, so they carry on as if nothing is wrong. Clinical signs that may indicate your pet has dental disease include, but is not limited to, tooth loss, subdued behaviour, abnormal drooling, swallowing food whole or dropping food from the mouth, bad breath, bleeding gums, yellow-brown crusts on teeth, going to the food bowl but not eating, and a change of chewing or eating habits. Occasionally a swelling will occur under the pet's eye. This is often associated with an abscess of the carnassial tooth (main chewing tooth) in the upper jaw. If you notice any of these signs, please have your pet's mouth checked immediately. It is very sad when owners no longer want to snuggle with their pet because of their pet's bad breath. These pets have loved us unconditionally and don't understand why they are no longer asked on our laps, or why they are locked away when company comes. This bad breath is a sign of dental disease. We owe it to our pets to keep them healthy and loved.



## Progression of dental disease...

As bacteria sit on the teeth, they are mixed with saliva, food particles, and dead skin cells. This combination forms a sticky film that sticks to the teeth near the gum line. This is known as plaque. Plaque is dangerous because it is active infection that starts to inflame the gums. Once the gums are inflamed, known as gingivitis, they start to separate from the tooth, allowing the bacteria to invade even further. The bacteria now has access to the periodontal ligament—the ligament that attaches the tooth root to the jaw bone. The infection spreads into this area, creating large pockets between the tooth root and the gum, and eventually causes loose teeth. Loss of the attachment of the tooth to the bone is called periodontal disease. This cannot be reversed, and the tooth must be removed.

Support the Firefighter Campout for Muscular Dystrophy on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Wilde's husband, Scott, will be one of the members enduring the cold. Firetrucks available for purchase at the clinic.

**February is dental month... Please see one of our animal health technologists to book your complimentary dental consult and receive a free bag of Hills t/d.**



**"Just look in my mouth!?"**

Cleaning teeth is really the **ONLY** way to battle dental disease. However, once the cleaning has been performed, there is homework!!! Daily teeth brushing is the **gold standard** for prevention. Brushing teeth for 45-60 seconds once a day is important for bacteria and plaque removal. Hills t/d (tartar diet), Biotene water additive or antiseptic gel, Nolvadent mouth wash, and dental chews all aid in the cleansing of the mouth and teeth. If we do nothing, bacteria start to colonize the mouth, plaque and tartar start to form, and the progression of dental disease begins once again.



Dental Cleaning - Before



Dental Cleaning - After