



Vets Love Pets!



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Dental disease is as common in pets as it is in humans, if not more so. The good news is that it is preventable. Our animal companions are not able to tell us when they have a sore tooth, or sore gums. They rely on their owners and veterinarians to provide them with the care that they need. This month we would like provide you with the information you need to provide your pets with that care. This newsletter will explain dental disease and prevention. Tudor Glen Veterinary Hospital is proud to provide clients with complimentary dental consultations. Please do not hesitate to call and book one today.

IMPLICATIONS OF DENTAL DISEASE

It is important to protect your pet from dental disease for many reasons. First of all, infection within the mouth will be picked up by the bloodstream and carried to other parts of the body. Vital organs that may be affected include the kidneys, liver, lungs, and heart. Infections within these organs oftentimes begins in the mouth, which can lead to serious and expensive medical conditions.

Even pets with low grade gingivitis can have their immune system compromised by dental disease. This makes them more susceptible to other diseases. Dental disease can be an indicator of other underlying health problems such as kidney disease and diabetes.

Veterinarians are passionate about dental health because they know that prevention is the best medication.

TARTAR FACTS

While the most common form of dental disease in humans is cavities, this is not the case in cats and dogs. A build-up of tartar (plaque and calculus) around the teeth is the biggest problem. This causes irritation of the gums around the base of the teeth (gingivitis), resulting in exposure of the roots, which can ultimately lead to infection and tooth loss.



WHAT IF THE TARTAR IS NOT REMOVED?

1. Tartar will push the gums away from the roots of the teeth, this causes the teeth to loosen in their sockets and infection to enter the root socket below.
2. Infection will accumulate in the mouth, resulting in gingivitis, tonsillitis, and pharyngitis (sore throat). Although antibiotics may temporarily slow down the infection, if the tartar is not removed from the teeth, the infection will quickly return.
3. As mentioned previously, infection within the mouth will be picked up by the blood stream and carried to other parts of the body, including vital organs.



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PET DENTAL PROCEDURE

Pets need dental work done too. The procedure lasts a full day. Your pet will be dropped off early in the morning, at which time you will spend 10 to 15 minutes with a veterinary health technologist. Shortly after your pet has awoken from the anesthetic, you will receive a phone call letting you know how the procedure went. Later on in the afternoon you will be able to pick up your pet. Depending on the extent of the procedure, you may go home with some take home medications. The procedure is simple and effective in maintaining the integrity of your pet's oral health.

SMALL BREEDS

Small dog breeds are more likely to develop dental disease than large dog breeds because the teeth of smaller dogs are often too large for their mouths. For this reason they are more likely to have crooked teeth, which are more likely to have plaque and tartar build up.

BROKEN TEETH

Broken teeth are another problem that pets face. Outdoor dogs are commonly victims of broken teeth due to aggressive chewing on hard objects such as sticks, bones, and rocks. If your pet has a broken tooth it is important to contact your veterinarian immediately.

INTRAVENOUS FLUID THERAPY

Fluids are used during the dental procedure for many reasons. First of all, your pet will be slightly dehydrated when the procedure takes place and the fluid therapy will help with rehydration. Dehydration occurs because your pet is fasted the night before their dental in order to prevent complications. Fluid therapy is also helpful to regulate your pet's blood pressure throughout the dental. In addition to being a valuable tool for stabilizing your pet should a complication occur, fluid therapy is able to provide you with a piece of mind in knowing that your pet will recover as quickly as possible. Fluid therapy helps to flush the anesthetic out of your pet's system quicker than would be possible without it. This, in turn, protects their kidneys from harm.

PRE-ANESTHETIC BLOODWORK

In order to adhere to a strong commitment to providing the best in veterinary care, veterinarians strongly recommend pre-anesthetic bloodwork. Blood testing is crucial for pets at ANY AGE. The process is simple, non-invasive, and effective in checking internal functions.

Blood work ensures that your pet's kidneys, liver, and heart are functioning properly. There are many benefits in knowing that these organs are performing optimally. In the case of pre-anesthetic bloodwork, it is important to know that these organs are able to rid the body of the anesthetic after the procedure. Should your veterinarian decide that the results indicate a problem, the procedure may be cancelled so that the problem can be dealt with before hand.

If your pet's bloodwork comes back normal it is important to know that your money is not wasted. It is important for your veterinarian to know what your pet's normal values are so that they can use them as a benchmark if your pet should get sick.

