



The Pet Dominion Quarterly


Fido, Show Off That Smile

Every dog owner knows what a dog smile looks like. But underneath the goofy happy-go-lucky tongue-lolling grin there may be another story. Keeping your dog's mouth healthy and pain-free improves 'dog breath' and reduces the risk of local infections as well as bacteria-related heart and kidney disease.

We always check your dog's oral health during their exams and there are some things you can see too. Lift the top lip and look for tartar, a foul-smelling brownish crust swarming with bacteria that accumulates on the canine teeth and along the molars going toward the back of the mouth. Gums that are dark red or prone to bleeding indicate gingivitis. Swelling around the mouth or below the eyes may be caused by a tooth that has become infected and needs to be addressed.

While your dog is in for the dental prophylaxis their teeth and mouth are thoroughly evaluated. We begin

by taking dental x-rays to assess the integrity of the tooth roots. A decaying tooth is an infection waiting to happen and should be extracted. We check for broken, cracked or chipped teeth. Dogs love to chew and their teeth can become damaged, exposing the pulp inside the tooth that covers the nerve. An ultrasonic scaler is used to clean the tartar off visible surfaces of the teeth and then they are polished smooth. OraVet sealant is recommended for all dogs and is applied after the teeth are polished. The health of the gums, tongue and other structures in the mouth are evaluated. Small oral masses and gum overgrowth can be removed.

Patients are closely monitored while they are under anesthesia. They can go home the same day and are usually fully recovered by the following day. Mouths heal quickly so even dogs who have had extractions tend to bounce right back to normal. During the discharge appointment a technician will go over the procedure and any necessary home care. 

FEBRUARY IS DENTAL CARE MONTH!

- ♥ Congrats to the winners of the December Dental Raffle!
- ♥ In February everyone gets a **10% discount** on dentals
- ♥ Senior Pet Club members get **15% off**
- ♥ Get **15% off** within 6 weeks of an Annual Package
- ♥ Ask about the plaque prevention gel **OraVet**
- ♥ Have our staff demonstrate proper pet tooth brushing




Okay Kitty, Open Wide

Your cat sits looking at you skeptically as you slowly approach, hopeful, toothbrush in hand. Soon the tuna flavored toothpaste will be smeared all over you and your furniture but not a drop will have gotten close to your cat's mouth. Many cats make home dental care difficult if not impossible. Routine professional dental care when indicated by the veterinarian will help keep your cat's mouth healthy.

Cats are prone to the same complications as dogs are without proactive oral care. Periodontal disease in cats and dogs starts out as mild gingivitis with some tartar accumulation and progresses to severely inflamed and painful gums with heavy tartar buildup on the teeth and bone loss in the jaw. Cats don't tend to chew their food very well so even the crunchy food doesn't significantly

help to control tartar. If dental disease progresses the gums will bleed as the kitty eats, releasing bacteria from the tartar into the bloodstream. This bacteria can cause heart and kidney complications.

As described above, your cat's mouth is thoroughly examined during their procedure. Cats are prone to a disease process called resorptive lesions which is when cells begin destroying the tooth roots leading to root canal exposure and pain. Oral cancer is not uncommon in cats so while they are anesthetized we look for growths and recommend removing them if present.

Remember that our pets generally continue eating and playing despite painful teeth, not because there is no pain. Once they stop eating the problem is severe and we owe it to our pals not to let it escalate to that point. Routine preventative care is the key. 

New At Pet Dominion

Dr. Garrison is happy to provide enhanced ultrasonic diagnostic capabilities with our powerful new ultrasound unit. Many conditions can be screened for un-invasively and without sedation. Internal masses or changes to organ appearance in older pets is common and can be monitored or treated if caught early. Pets that are prone to recurring urinary tract infections may have stones, masses, or a thickened bladder wall visible with the ultrasound. It is an invaluable tool that can be quite revealing as to why your pet just isn't feeling well.

Just in time for dental month we are upgrading to digital dental x-rays. Our staff is excited to perform your pet's dental radiographs faster, with the image instantly available on a computer screen. This process will reduce the amount of time your pet is under anesthesia due to hand processing of x-ray films. Images can be easily sent in email or on a CD to a dental referral center should the need ever arise. 🐾

Fun Animal Fact

Brought to you by Inga, Hospital Manager

Did you know that dogs have 28 baby teeth and 42 adult teeth? Cats have 26 baby teeth and 30 adult teeth. Both usually have a full set of adult teeth by the time they are 4-5 months old. The baby ones get swallowed!

Home Dental Care

Medical Technologist Pam spotlights products that will make home dental care rewarding for you and your pet.

A great way to extend the time between your pet's dental prophylaxis is by performing home dental care. Here are a few products that will help.

OraVet is a dental sealant applied after your pet's teeth have been cleaned and polished smooth. The gel seals the microscopic ridges in the teeth where bacteria love to grow and start forming plaque. After their dental simply use OraVet at home once weekly and you will notice less long term tartar accumulation.

For even better results add in tooth brushing as often as possible. Be sure to use C.E.T. enzymatic toothpaste which is formulated for dogs and cats. Human toothpaste is not safe for pets because they swallow it. Use a fingerbrush on small dogs and cats for easy brushing. You can request a complimentary Pet Dominion tooth brush for medium and large dogs.

Dogs love to chew and C.E.T. chews help clean their teeth as they do. Available in multiple sizes. See our display case for other helpful products. 🐾

Favorite Websites

Veterinary technicians Franca and Joana pick their favorite animal websites. Check them out!

Adopt your next friend from the Humane Society.
www.mchumane.org

Get a stylish ID tag for your pet made by Red Dingo.
www.gollygear.com

For a good laugh at ridiculous cat and dog pictures.
www.icanhascheezburger.com

K-Laser to the Rescue

The class IV therapy K-Laser has been a part of pain management and healing at Pet Dominion for several years. It is used routinely in the management of chronic pain and stiffness due to arthritis or joint injury. Our vets recommend laser therapy following surgery or the extraction of a tooth. It also speeds the healing of some skin irritations and injuries. Many patients benefit from laser therapy in addition to anti-inflammatory drugs.

How does it work? The light energy from the laser interacts with tissue in the area being treated, increasing circulation and cellular activity. This creates an optimal healing environment decreasing inflammation, swelling, muscle spasms, stiffness and pain. The laser therapy stimulates the immune system, nerve regeneration, and cell reproduction and growth. It is un-invasive and has no side effects. 🐾

Featured Pet

Ellwood was adopted from St. Bernard rescue in 2005 after the sudden passing of his young owner. He was 4.5 years old, confused, and battling stomach problems. Poor Ellwood has been no stranger to surgery in his life. As a young dog he had both hips replaced and bladder surgery. In spring 2008 he had a very serious operation on his liver and then had a splenectomy in fall 2008. He is a trooper and after some difficult recovery time is back to eating a healthy 12 cups of dog food a day.

Ellwood enjoys short walks, sleeping on the freezing cold deck (or anywhere) and playing in the snow. He loves playing with his small dog pals at doggy daycare. While attending the swim day for dogs this year he simply thought that he had finally found a decent sized water bowl. He is recognized and loved everywhere he goes as a true gentle giant.



To see your pet featured send a digital photo and description of what makes your pet special to inga@petdominion.com