



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 procedure 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. 🐾

Year Round Prevention

Everyone knows that it is important to keep dogs and cats on heartworm prevention during the warm months. Did you know that there are huge benefits to year round heartworm prevention?

Mosquitoes carry heartworm disease so the chances of your pet contracting it in December are slim. You never know when that first bug is going to come out in spring though, so better protected than sorry.

Heartworm preventatives also control intestinal parasites like hookworms and roundworms that are in the environment year round. These parasites cause GI upset and poor health. Some can be given to humans.

Some heartworm preventatives also control fleas and ticks. Pets are always susceptible to these parasites. Fleas can carry tapeworms and deer ticks can carry Lyme disease, not to mention being a nuisance to you and your pet. Ask our staff for help choosing a product. 

Fun Animal Fact

Brought to you by Tommy, Veterinary Technician

Cats never developed a 'sweet tooth'! The taste buds of a cat are incapable of detecting sweet. This is most likely due to the fact that as true carnivores, they don't need to taste sweet flavors.


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 technician Franca picks her favorite animal related websites. Check them out!

Great accessories for your diva dog.

www.funnyfur.com

Microchip your pet. Lost pets can be returned home.

www.homeagain.com

FAQ

Answered by Erin, Veterinary Technician

Q: *I've been hearing a lot about pet insurance. Is that something I need?*

A: Many pet owners enjoy having an insurance plan on their animals. One major benefit is having a low monthly payment for veterinary services instead of one larger lump sum to pay per visit. Most companies offer a variety of different plans that can be customized to your needs. Often plans start with basic annual wellness care coverage and extend to emergency care coverage. This can soften the blow on your wallet and make decisions regarding care easier. It is always better to get coverage while your pet is still young without pre-existing medical conditions. Here are a few companies to look into.

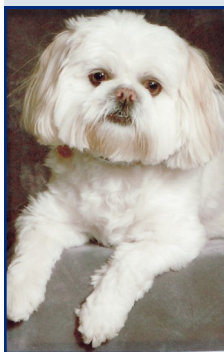
VPI Pet Insurance: www.petinsurance.com

Pets Best Insurance: www.petsbest.com

ASPCA Pet Insurance: www.aspcapetinsurance.com 

Featured Pet

Brought to you by Inga, Hospital Manager



Hi, my name is Zoe but I am also known by my stage name, Zoe la Zozo. I play a diva who does lots of tricks for my fans. My mom adopted me in 1996 after I winked at her, that was all that it took! As a puppy I was a ballerina performing for anyone who would give me a treat. My favorite things to do, besides napping, are playing tug of war and having my belly rubbed. Currently my favorite treats are greenies and chicken sticks. I keep a watchful eye on the treat box, hoping that one day my mom will leave them open and I can have a party.

I love my mom and my family and neighbors. When I see them I roll over so they can rub my belly and I'll kiss their nose. I also love my friends at Pet Dominion where I always have fun, feel safe, and who have helped me with my diabetes and keep me healthy and huggable.