



# Pet Dental Health

*Why should you have your dog or cat's teeth professionally cleaned?*



While they don't get "cavities", dogs and cats do suffer from other types of dental disease. Like visiting your own dentist regularly, pets also need regular dental care. **Periodontal or gum disease is the number one illness found in both dogs and cats.** Dental disease can lead to serious problems ranging from gum infection and tooth loss to bacteria damaging the heart and other organs. Dental disease can be prevented by following your vet's recommendations regarding home care and dental cleanings.



## WHAT DOES A DENTAL CLEANING INVOLVE?

### Evaluation and Anesthesia

Since dogs and cats will not lie still and allow us to thoroughly inspect their mouths and teeth, general anesthesia is required to perform this procedure. Prior to anesthesia all patients will undergo a complete physical exam, and pre-operative blood work may be required depending on your pet's age or history. This is all done to minimize any risks and provide valuable information about your pet's health.

### Dental Cleaning

Once safely anesthetized, your pet's teeth will be evaluated, cleaned (using an ultrasonic tooth scaler to remove tartar and plaque), and polished. The veterinarian and technician will evaluate your pet's mouth for signs of gum disease (gingivitis), damaged/broken/loose teeth, and the presence of oral tumors or other abnormalities. Depending on your pet's needs, procedures like dental x-rays and extractions may also be needed.

### Home Care

Upon discharge we will work with you to create a plan to help prevent dental disease in the future, usually through the use of home brushing, dental chews, and possibly special diets.

### Signs of Poor Dental Health

- Bad breath
- Visible tartar on the teeth
- Red, irritated, swollen, or bleeding gums
- Drooling or excessive salivation
- Difficulty eating or chewing
- Loose or missing teeth

Please ask to have a dental examination today to determine what is recommended for YOUR pet based on their history and need. A detailed quote for these services can be provided to you at that time!