We welcome your pets as members of our family

Caring for your Dog's Teeth

Mon - Fri 7:30 am - 5:30 pm
Saturday 8:00 am - 1:00 pm
Closed Sunday
Dog dental health is important.

Our team of veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians are here to provide advice regarding diet, preventive health checks, and recommended treatments.

Warning signs of poor oral health disease

Please contact us if your dog exhibits any of the following signs of oral disease:

- Bad breath
- Gums are red and swollen
- Acts hungry, but is reluctant to eat
- Visible plaque and tartar on the teeth
- Facial swelling
- Acts ‘grouchy,’ (more irritable than before)
- Drops food out of mouth
- Rubs or paws at face
- Salivates or drools excessively
- Refuses to play with toys
- Reluctance to drink cold water
- Sneezes frequently or has nasal discharge

Common Dental Problems

- **Bad Breath**: If your dog has really bad breath, it is often a sign of dental disease.

- **Loose Teeth**: Loose teeth can be painful and if not treated, or removed and can lead to severe infection.

- **Slab Fracture**: A slab fracture is the breaking of the enamel layer on a tooth. Chewing on hard objects can lead to enamel damage, which in turn can lead to a fractured tooth and a painful abscess.

  *NOTE: To test if a toy is too hard for your pet, sit in a chair and hold the toy in your hand. Hold the hand in front of you and let the treat or toy drop onto your knee. If it hurts, it is too hard and could lead to a fracture.*

- **Abscessed Teeth**: An abscessed tooth occurs when a cavity is not taken care of, and becomes infected. Signs that your dog is suffering from an abscessed tooth include sensitivity to touch around the mouth, hesitation to eat hard foods, and often it appears as a swelling under the eye.

- **Oral cancers**: Unfortunately oral cancers, including melanomas and squamous cell carcinomas occur in dogs. Bad breath, bleeding and reluctance to eat are common signs. Early detection is important for effective treatment.

- **Tooth Resorption**: Teeth and their roots can undergo a weakening, and dissolution. When this occurs, teeth can break, abscess or the root can become exposed. This is a progressive change and leads to pain and disease.
Dental radiographs are an important part of dental an oral examination and can help identify the following conditions:

- Periodontal and Endodontic disease.
- Fractured teeth.
- Trauma, maxillary or mandibular fractures.
- Dental abnormalities.
- Preoperative, perioperative and post operative evaluations.
- Nasal cavity disease.
- Oral Masses/Tumors.
- Retained Roots.
- Periapical abscesses / Abscessed teeth / Cysts.
- Cavities and Root Resorption.
- Retained Deciduous teeth

**Preventative Care and At-Home Treatment**

Good dental care begins with your new puppy and should continue with prevention and at-home care. Here are a few ways to protect your dog’s teeth and gums:

- **Brush** your dog’s teeth at least two to three times a week (daily is best). **Our team can teach you how !**
- Schedule **oral examinations and regular scaling/polishing** to aid in the prevention of periodontal disease. This should be done every six to twelve months, depending on the findings for your dog.
- **Chlorhexadine Oral Rinse and Gel.** The gel is applied by smearing it onto the teeth. The tongue and lips will spread the rinse or gel around the mouth.
- Use of products such as enzyme impregnated chews can also be of benefit.
Proper dental care can detect dental disease that not only affects the mouth, but can also lead to more serious health problems such as heart, lung, and kidney disease. Good dental hygiene is just as important for pets as it is for humans. Yet, it is one of the most overlooked areas in pet health.

**Dental Services**

- **OraStrip** is a non-invasive test for periodontal (gum) disease.
- Pre-anesthetic **blood testing**.
- **IV catheter** and **fluid therapy**.
- **General anesthesia** – personalized to your pet’s situation.
- Intensive **patient monitoring**, including blood pressure, oxygen level, heart rate and temperature.
- Full mouth **examination**, including tooth and gum assessment.
- **Digital radiographs**.
- **12 Step dental** cleaning with ultrasonic scaling, polishing, fluoride treatment.
- **Endodontics** – root care and tooth **extractions** when needed.
- **Fracture** evaluation and repair.
- **Follow-up home care consultation**.