

## PROFESSIONAL VETERINARY DENTAL CLEANING

Imagine if you couldn't brush your teeth and, little by little, plaque and the bacteria it creates eroded your teeth and caused serious infections throughout your body. According to the American Veterinary Dental Society, more than 80% of dogs and 70% of cats develop some form of dental disease by the age of three.

We offer advanced veterinary dentistry at North 10<sup>th</sup> Street Animal Hospital in order to prevent serious periodontal (gum) disease, which is one of the most common preventable illnesses in pets. With routine cleaning, plaque is controlled before it develops into gingivitis and periodontal disease. This serious disease allows bacteria to enter the blood stream, causing infection and inflammation of a pet's vital organs. Dental exams, radiography, and cleaning also identifies and treats fractures, tumors and other dental problems, which often go undetected.

Because two-thirds of an animal's tooth is below the gum line, professional oral cleaning is required to assure good oral health for your pet. It has a significant positive effect on your pet's general health and well-being.

Our veterinary dental cleaning always begins with a pre-dental appointment where our veterinarians will not only evaluate your pet's mouth, but the overall health of your pet. This allows the veterinarian to get a good general idea of your pet's dental condition and allows you the opportunity to ask any questions you have along with receiving advice for home care that will be beneficial to your pet. At this visit, your pet will have blood drawn for analysis to identify any potential problems that your veterinarian needs to be aware of and to determine if your pet is healthy enough to undergo anesthesia. This visit also allows you to discuss anesthesia with your veterinarian. We realize that this can often be a worry for pet owners. Under proper protocols, anesthesia is very safe, and we encourage you to ask questions explaining our anesthetic protocol.

What your pet will receive on the day of the dental procedure:

- IV catheter and fluid therapy along with anesthesia and cardiovascular and respiratory monitoring.
- Another complete oral exam (under anesthesia) and radiographs (x-rays) to identify any problems below the gum line. Common painful problems that could be identified with radiographs are broken teeth and roots, periodontal disease, dead teeth, abscesses or infected teeth.
- A full cleaning under the gum-line where periodontal disease begins as harmful bacteria 'live' below the gum tissue.

- Professional scaling and polishing. Scaling is performed in order to remove plaque and tartar build up. Polishing leaves a smooth surface on the tooth which discourages plaque and bacteria from adhering.
- Oral surgery and medical treatment of periodontal disease when necessary

Home care is also important in preventing dental problems for your pets. Brushing, enzyme-treated chews, oral rinses, water additives and special diets are all available at our hospital. Discuss the best options with our veterinarians. North 10th Street Animal Hospital offers special rates on dental cleaning to assure professional oral care becomes part of your pet's yearly treatment. Call us today to schedule your pre-dental exam. Dentals booked within 30 days of your pre-dental exam will receive a 15% discount.