



## Dental Health

Periodontal disease is the most common cause of tooth loss in dogs and cats. By two to three years of age, 60-80% of dogs and cats have some form of dental disease. Just like us, our pets need dental care too. Adult dogs have 42 permanent teeth; cats have 30. Brushing your pet's teeth and routine veterinary dental checkups can help maintain oral health and prevent more serious diseases from developing.



**SAVE \$50.00**  
If your veterinarian recommends a dental cleaning for your pet at their next visit, book the procedure that day and receive \$50.00 off!

**If our veterinarians recommend a dental cleaning at your pet's next exam, book the procedure that day and receive a \$50.00 discount year-round!**

Since we are now offering \$50 off same-day dental booking, we will no longer have the bi-annual discounts for dental procedures performed in February and September. Since dental health is important for all pets, we wanted to offer a discount all year long to all of our clients. We will still offer 15% off any dental related items (toothpaste, OxyFresh solution, CET Dental Chews) during the official AVMA recognized Dental Health Month.

## Symptoms of Dental Disease

Bad Breath (Halitosis)  
Bleeding gums  
Poor self-grooming  
Dropping food from mouth  
Facial rubbing  
Tooth loss

Swallowing food whole  
Head or mouth shyness  
Facial swelling  
Discoloration of teeth (yellow or brown crust build up)  
Nasal discharge

Inappropriate drooling  
Change of eating or chewing habits.  
Pawing at the mouth  
Teeth grinding or chattering  
Personality changes

## Causes of Dental Disease

The start of most dental problems in pets is plaque. Plaque is a film of bacteria, cells and salivary proteins. Over time, plaque hardens to form tartar. Tartar builds up at the base of the teeth and below the gum line causing infection and inflammation of the gums (gingivitis). Left untreated gingivitis results in the destruction of the gums and tissues that surround and support the teeth. This can lead to pain, tooth loss and more serious illnesses such as heart, liver and kidney disease.

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## Contributing Factors of Dental Disease

Age: Periodontal disease is more common as pets get older.

Breed: Periodontal disease is more common in certain breeds of dogs and cats (ex. greyhounds), smaller dogs and pure breed cats (ex: Abyssinian, Siamese, Birman).

Diet: Soft foods allow tartar to build up faster than dry foods. Dry foods allow for some abrasive action while the pet is chewing, and gently scrapes away some of the plaque.

Poor oral hygiene: Dogs and cats do not brush their teeth every day, thus home dental care is important to maintaining oral health. Ignoring the condition of your pet's mouth can lead to serious health problems. Routine veterinary dental checkups are also recommended.

## Recommendations on dental care for your pet:

Make sure your pet receives a yearly exam so your veterinarian can monitor your pet's teeth and make any necessary recommendations.

At home oral care: This includes brushing your pet's teeth regularly, offering a proper diet, and if you notice any signs of disease having your pet seen by your veterinarian as soon as possible.

Professional dental cleanings: We recommend once to twice a year dental cleanings (depending on age, breed and severity of dental disease). We perform dental cleanings every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday here at Lake Side Animal Hospital. This procedure includes removal of all tartar and plaque via ultrasonic scaling and manual scaling, followed by polishing of the teeth and cleaning the gum line and an application of fluoride. Many pets require tooth extractions for cavities, infection or fractured teeth. We will recommend what we think may be needed for your pet's dental health and we will provide a detailed treatment plan so you can know the possible costs.

**Your pet's dental health will affect their overall health. If you suspect your pet has any of the above symptoms, schedule an oral health exam today.**



**Have you visited our Pet Owner Portal?**

- Access your pet's medical records
- Print pet ID cards with vaccination information
- Receive email and text message reminders
- View upcoming appointments or request an appointment
- Access our library of valuable pet health information

**Click here to access the portal!**