

How to maintain pet oral health



About 85% of dogs and cats over 3 years of age will show some signs of dental disease, which causes oral discomfort / dysfunction and diseases of other organs (heart, kidneys and liver).

Your pet receiving regular dental care can live 3-5 years longer.

The signs of gum disease

Bad breath

Red and swollen gums

Gums that easily bleed when touched /
discoloured teeth

Receding gums

A yellow, brown crust of tartar on teeth

Loose teeth

Reluctance to eat/chew

Going to the food bowl, but hissing or
spitting at it or not eating

Abnormal drooling

Mouth pawing/rubbing

Irritability/Depression

Often Toy breeds have extra teeth as
they retain some of their baby teeth
(deciduous teeth should all be replaced by
permanent teeth around 6 months of age).



The progression of dental disease

Early gingivitis



Advanced gingivitis



Early periodontitis



Advanced periodontitis



What to avoid

- **Hard chews** e.g. dried cow hooves, bones and other stuff they chew on like sticks – it breaks teeth and wears them down prematurely.
- **Avoid playing tug-of-war** with toys with handles/ropes. (Never pick your pet up while they are suspended from a toy)
- **Do not use human toothpaste** as they contain fluoride and detergents that are dangerous to your pet.



Book your pet's dental



Our patients, unfortunately, do not respond well to **“lie back, relax and open wide”**. This, of course, means that a thorough examination can only be performed when our patients are anaesthetized.

Estimating a quote for a dental procedure can be challenging due to the state of the teeth underneath the tartar. **We advise bringing your pet for a free dental quotation prior to booking the appointment.**

Just like your dentist, we use dental instruments, including an ultrasonic scaler, hand curettes, air driven drills and polishers. **Where possible, we always try to save teeth. It is in your pet's best interest to have a full dentition.** However, if a tooth is too infected, or loose, or going to be a source of future problems, then we might need to remove it. Our patients cope quite well after teeth have been extracted.

How to prevent gum disease

1. Minimize or eliminate wet foods – chewing kibbles mechanically removes plaque from teeth.
2. Tooth pastes and oral gels aid in decreasing the bacterial population in the mouth, delaying tartar build-up
3. Dental chews help in the mechanical cleaning of the teeth and do not lead to dental fractures
4. Veterinary diets are available for improved mouth hygiene
5. Brushing your pet's teeth

