

Wignall Animal Hospital
and
Lowell Veterinary Clinic



Pet Dental Health Facts

Pet Dental Facts



Dogs have 28 baby teeth as puppies.
Cats have 26 baby teeth as kittens.



By the age of 6 months, these baby teeth fall out and are replaced by permanent teeth.



Dogs will have 42 permanent teeth.
Cats will have 30 permanent teeth.



Broken teeth are a common problem, especially for outdoor dogs and cats. Chewing on hard objects is a primary cause broken teeth.



Resorptive Lesions are the most common tooth disease in domestic cats. Studies show that approximately 28% of domestic cats develop at least one of these painful lesions during their lifetime.



Developing a dental care program at home for your pet(s) is the first step to helping your pet(s) maintain a healthy mouth and teeth.

Periodontal Disease

Periodontal disease is the most common disease among dogs and cats.



For dogs it is mostly common for smaller breeds because dogs' teeth often are too large for their mouths forcing the teeth closer together.



Causes of periodontal disease are from the build up of plaque, which creates infection and destroys the gums and results in the loss of the tissues and bone that support the teeth.



However, if you take good care of your pet's dental health the chances of your pet receiving periodontal disease are reduced.

Signs of Periodontal Disease



Tooth loss



Going to the food bowl, but not eating



Subdued behavior



Swallowing whole food



Abnormal drooling



Bad breath



Dropping food out of the mouth



Yellow-brown crust on teeth



Change of chewing or eating habits



Bleeding gums

Contributing Factors to Periodontal Disease



Poor Oral Hygiene: Ignoring the condition of your pet's mouth can lead to periodontal disease, tooth loss and other health problems such as damage to the kidney, heart muscle and liver.



Breed: Periodontal disease is more common in smaller breeds of dogs and certain breeds of cats.



Age: Periodontal disease is more likely to happen to older pets.



Congenital Predisposition: Pets can have a congenital predisposition to dental disease; therefore it is best to start a dental health program as early in life as possible.

Examples of Periodontal Disease



Treatment of Oral Disease

Warning signs of oral disease include:



Bad breath



Depression



Change in eating or chewing habits



Pawing at the face or mouth



Red and swollen gums



Gums bleed when touched



Yellow-brown crust of tartar around gum line

1. If any of these signs are present your pet should be taken to your veterinarian for a dental exam.
2. Oral disease is the most frequently diagnosed health problem for pets.
3. Oral disease begins with a build up of bacteria in your pet's mouth.
4. To prevent any type of oral disease from happening, practice a regular dental care routine at home where you can brush your pet's teeth with special formulated toothpaste, followed by a special pet tooth sealant called Oravet.
5. Another way of preventing oral disease is by asking your veterinarian about specially formulated foods with proven benefits in plaque and tartar control.