

IMPORTANCE OF DENTAL HEALTH FOR YOUR PETS



ALL CREATURES VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Dear Pet Parent,

Our office is excited to start off the new year with you and your furry family members! We would like to start 2024 off strong by discussing the importance of dental health, so that your pets are able to live their best life. Studies show that **85%** of pets have dental disease and would benefit from a dental procedure by 3 years old. Most pets, especially our small dogs, require a dental procedure every year. During our dental procedures, pets are under anesthesia so that we can fully assess and clean their teeth. At this time, we take full mouth radiographs, complete periodontal charting, while also cleaning and polishing their teeth just like your yearly dental cleaning.

In a healthy mouth, the teeth are clean and white, there is no redness or tartar, and the gums attach smoothly to the tooth. Tartar is solid and starts creating inflammation, covering the crown of the tooth, while destroying the attachment of the tooth and the surrounding jaw bone. Worse still, the bacteria of the mouth can spread to other areas in the body leading to infection in the heart, liver, kidney, or virtually anywhere the bloodstream carries them.

Fortunately, there is a lot we can do to prevent dental disease both at home and in our hospital. Home care is ideally a daily part of tooth maintenance but even brushing just once a week can remove most plaque before it can mineralize into tartar. It is important to note that “non-anesthetic” teeth cleaning is not comparable to the dental procedure we provide. It is not possible to perform a multi-step cleaning on a pet without general anesthesia. Cosmetic cleanings do not address dental disease where it occurs: under the gum line.

Here at All Creatures Veterinary Hospital, we take dental health very seriously. Our office is happy to offer a **\$25 OFF** coupon towards your pet's dental procedure if it is scheduled within 30 days of your pet's dental health assessment. If you are unsure whether or not your pet would benefit from a dental procedure, our office offers complimentary dental screening appointments in which we are able to assess your pet's oral health.

To schedule your pet's **FREE** technician dental assessment or to reserve a dental procedure, please give us a call at 336-282-1800 or email us at team@allcreatures-veterinaryhospital.com



**\$25 OFF DENTAL
CLEANING**

Home Care Products

For the best at-home care regarding your pet's dental health, it is recommended that pet owners use specially formulated toothpaste. Animal toothpaste (C.E.T enzymatic) comes in special flavors (chicken, seafood, and malt) in addition to the more human-appreciated mint. All options are expected to be swallowed and are non-toxic. They have enzymes in the toothpaste to help break up the plaque deposits. DO NOT use human toothpaste as it can be toxic to our pets.

Some animals, especially those with tender gums, will not tolerate brushing but are more amenable to disinfecting wipes or pads. These products will wipe off plaque deposits from the surface of the tooth and, though they lack the ability to pick food particles out of the gum socket, they are probably the next best thing to brushing and best used daily. For many people, doing anything inside their pet's mouth on a regular basis is simply never going to happen. Fortunately, chewing on a proper dental chew daily can substantially reduce plaque and tartar by up to **69%**. Dental chews should be used daily in order to achieve these results; occasional use is not going to be helpful and the dog must actually chew on the treat. Dental chews must be the proper size for the dog in question to avoid a choking hazard. Examples include C.E.T. Dentahex chews, Oravet brand chews, and Greenies. Look for chews with The Veterinary Oral Health Council seal. The VOHC evaluates dental products made for pets to be sure they actually do what they say they are going to do with regard to plaque and tartar control.

Be sure to use your best judgment when it comes to chew toys. A toy that could be readily swallowed in large chunks may lead to intestinal obstruction. Most chew toys will indicate whether they are meant for puppies, adults, or our senior pets. A pet with diseased teeth may be more likely to *break* their teeth on a hard chew, which is *painful* and can lead to further dental *complications*. Other options, such as cow hooves or bones can also be too hard and cause teeth to break, even in a healthy mouth.

Check out our online store if you are interested in any of these products!

