



Dental Disease

Dental disease can affect our dogs and cats at any stage of life, but it is most common as our pets enter middle age. Studies at the Veterinary Colleges of Ohio State and Cornell University have found that 85% of dogs and cats over 6 years of age have some form of dental disease.

Dental disease can be put into 3 categories: gingivitis, tartar and pyorrhea. Gingivitis is inflammation of the gums. You can easily see this by the increase in pinkness of your pet's gums, especially the gumline. Tartar is the accumulation of plaque on the teeth, usually starting at the gumline in conjunction with gingivitis. Pyorrhea is the most serious of the three conditions. It is pus in the mouth usually between the teeth and gums.

All three of these conditions require treatment. Therapy can range from antibiotics to anesthesia and a complete dental scaling and polishing. The appropriate type of treatment is decided upon after oral examination. We treat these conditions because they are actual infections. Dental disease can lead to heart, lung, liver, kidney, skin and prostate infections.

All of these conditions are caused by one of two reasons. The first is feeding poor quality foods. These foods give little to no benefits to teeth and gums. The second reason is genetics. As with our teeth, some people get cavities or excessive tartar due to genetics. The same is true with animals. Since we cannot change our genetics, **an annual dental exam**, is our recommendation.

So, the next time you complain of dog breath or cat breath, look into your pet's mouth and then call us for an examination. Let's cure any problems and prevent more serious ones before they start.

February is National Pet Dental Month

Our returning dental clients will receive a 10% discount on any dental scheduled in February. All others will receive a special dental treat.