

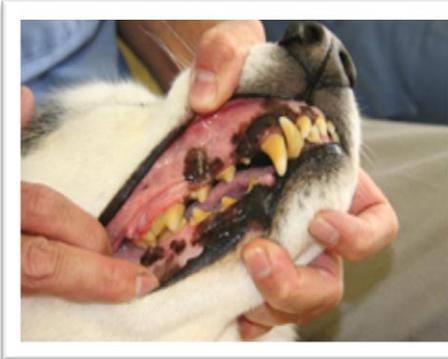


VETLAND
Animal Hospital



Dental Disease

Periodontal (gum) disease is one of the most common conditions seen in pets today. The problem begins when plaque and tartar are allowed to build up on your pet's teeth. Plaque harbours the bacteria, which can infect gum tissue and the roots of teeth resulting in disease and tooth loss. Besides the negative impact on the oral health, bacteria can enter the blood stream through the large blood vessels located near the gums and teeth. At this stage, the organs with the highest blood flow are most susceptible to infections: lungs, heart, kidneys, liver and even the brain. Damage to these organs caused by infection can shorten the lives of our pets.



Our dental technicians are highly qualified to perform a thorough dental exam on your pet without the use of anesthesia. During the examination our technicians will chart any abnormalities or concerns regarding your pet's oral health. The next step is removing all of the plaque above and below the gum line. When we are finished removing the build-up, we will polish the teeth using a fluoride-based pumice. Following your pet's dental exam our technicians can assist you in getting started on a home

Why Dental Care is Important: **Dental Disease Progression**

STAGE ONE: Mild Calculus and/or Gingivitis



At this stage your pet's mouth may appear healthy, but is beginning to display early signs of dental disease such as plaque or mild calculus accumulation on the tooth surface and/or inflammation and bleeding of the gums with no tooth mobility or attachment loss. To avoid dental disease from progressing, this is the perfect time to schedule a professional dental cleaning and begin a home dental hygiene program.

STAGE TWO: Moderate Calculus and/or Early Periodontitis



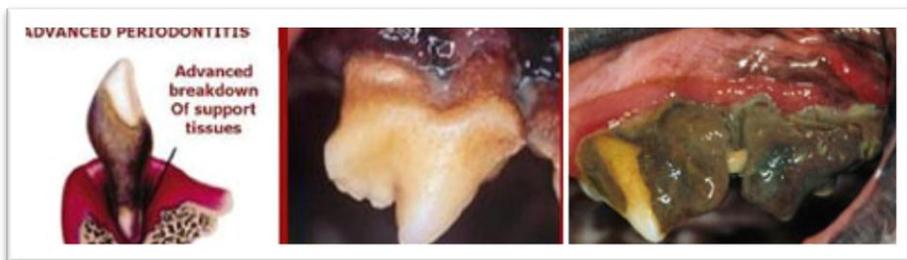
Moderate calculus, gingival recession and root pocket formation with up to 25% of root attachment loss are usually present at this stage. Your pet's mouth may be painful and you may begin to notice an odour. A professional dental cleaning, local antibiotics and home dental care can prevent this condition from becoming irreversible.

STAGE THREE: Moderate to Heavy Calculus and/or Moderate Periodontitis



By stage three, gingivitis has progressed and severe root pocket formation with 25-50% root attachment loss has occurred. Your pet's health and behaviour can be affected. You may notice a change in appetite, eating behaviour, drooling, pawing at the mouth, or even lethargy. Moderate to heavy calculus has formed and an odour is very noticeable. Periodontal pockets have formed and the gums are inflamed, bleeding, painful and being destroyed by infection. This infection can enter the pet's bloodstream and spread to vital organs such as the heart, liver and kidneys. This condition requires immediate attention to stabilize it and prevent it from progressing to stage four. A professional cleaning, dental radiographs, local antibiotics, supportive therapy including follow-up dental cleanings and home care are essential.

STAGE FOUR: Heavy Calculus and/or Advanced Periodontitis



At this advanced stage heavy calculus, severe inflammation, gum recession and bleeding, deep pockets, bone loss and tooth mobility is established. Bacterial infection is chronic and spreading throughout the entire body. Any symptoms displayed earlier will have likely worsened including any influence on the heart, liver or kidneys. In addition to a professional dental cleaning, dental radiographs, and local antibiotics, treatment may also include a synthetic bone graft and/or extractions. Post-surgical supportive care, including frequent follow-up dental cleanings and diligent home care will be necessary in order to maintain oral stability.