

DENTAL DISEASE IN DOGS AND CATS

Client Information Series

Dental disease is the most common problem affecting our beloved pets. Among pets 3 years of age and older dental disease will affect 70 – 80% of them. The health consequences of dental disease are caused by chronic exposure to the bacterial infection that is present in the diseased tissue of the oral cavity.

The three primary health consequences of dental disease are:

1. Bad breath
2. Infection of the gums, loose teeth and abscessed teeth (periodontal disease) all of which are very painful conditions for your pets
3. Spread of the bacterial infection from the oral cavity to other major organs such as the kidneys, liver, lungs and heart which can shorten the life span of our pets.

Advanced cases of dental disease require a professional cleaning and treatment program to try and return the oral cavity to good health and eliminate the associated bacterial infection.

If your pet is free of significant dental disease then preventative measures will help maintain this condition. We recommend a special diet, **Hills t/d**, which is a tartar control food. This food “brushes your pet’s teeth at every meal” and helps prevent the buildup of materials and bacteria that cause dental disease.

Call us or stop in if you have any questions about your pet’s dental health.

“Caring for your pets...as if they were our own”