

Periodontal Disease

Periodontal disease is the **Number One** health concern in dogs and cats over 3 years of age. This is a swelling of some or all of the support tissue (the gums and bone) surrounding a tooth caused by an accumulation of dental plaque on the surface of the teeth and gums. This dental plaque is made up of bacteria, mineral salts, organic material and food particles and starts to accumulate on the teeth in as little as one day after the animal has had a dental cleaning. After several days of plaque building up on the teeth tartar starts to form which creates a rough surface for more plaque and tartar to build up. There are four stages to periodontal disease ranging from mild to severe (see table at the bottom). Stages 1 and 2 can be reversed while stages 3 and 4 cannot.



When owner's note that their pets breath smells they are recognizing the odor associated with periodontal disease. Other signs of periodontal disease can go unseen but can be just as serious. Due to the plaque and tartar build up on the teeth, the gums become irritated and can start to bleed. This process can be painful to the animal. You pet may start to eat slower, become finicky or stop eating all together. They may also start dropping food from their mouth while eating. If there is enough of a build up the roots can become affected and eventually the teeth will fall out. Another potential effect of having periodontal disease is that the bacteria surrounding the root of the teeth is very close to the blood supply now and enters the circulation. When this happens the bacteria in the blood can cause changes to the liver, kidneys and heart.



Treatment of periodontal disease most commonly consists of a dental cleaning. During a dental cleaning your pets teeth will be scaled, polished and have fluoride applied. If there are teeth that show signs of severe disease such as gum recession, pockets around the tooth or teeth that are loose the veterinarian may deem it necessary to remove the tooth. This will prevent any future issues with the gums around that tooth.

The best way to prevent periodontal disease is through oral health care such as brushing, using dental food and treats as well as water additives. The best form of prevention is to brush your pets' teeth with animal safe toothpaste a minimum of 3 to 4 times a week. This will help by removing the plaque buildup on the teeth and reduce the amount of tartar on them. Other forms of prevention include foods such as Science Diets T/D® and treats such as VeggieDents®. Water additives that reduce the total



amount of bacteria in the mouth, such as Aquadent® can also be used. To achieve the best results you can combine different forms such as brushing, giving the VeggieDents® and using the Aquadent®.

If you have any questions or would like more information about periodontal disease or brushing your pets teeth please call us at (920) 668-6212 or email us at info@cgvet.com.

<p style="text-align: center;">Stage 0</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Normal Healthy Teeth and Gums</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Stage 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mild Gingivitis and Plaque</p> <p>The margin of attached gums is inflamed and swollen. Plaque and tartar are present. Dental cleaning recommended within a month to remove buildup and prevent progression of dental disease. Follow up with dental home care.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Stage 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderate Gingivitis</p> <p>Entire gum is inflamed and swollen. The mouth is painful and odor is noticeable. Tooth roots have lost 25% of their attachment. Dental cleaning needed as soon as possible followed by a home dental care plan.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Stage 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Severe Gingivitis</p> <p>The gum are cherry red and bleeding, damaged by infection and calculus. Sore mouth and foul breath are evident. A dental cleaning is recommended immediately to remove calculus, along with antibiotics and pain medications. Extractions are likely.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Stage 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">End Stage Periodontal Disease</p> <p>Chronic infection is destroying the teeth, bone, and gums. Bacteria are constantly circulating throughout the body and can cause heart, liver, and kidney problems. Pain is constant. Dental cleaning is immediately needed. Extractions, antibiotics and pain medications will be necessary.</p>	