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DENTAL DISEASE

CANINE AND FELINE DENTAL DISEASE

Dental disease is one of the most common problems seen every day in our dog and cat companions. They don't brush their teeth every day like us, so bacteria quickly builds up on the teeth and gums. However, there are many things we can do to improve the dental health of our pets.

BAD BREATH is the first sign you will probably notice that your dog or cat has dental disease. Bad breath results from the bacterial infection, which occurs where the teeth and gums meet. Bacteria left untreated in the mouth multiply and produce by-products that destroy the bone that supports the teeth. As dental disease progresses, infection can spread to the heart, kidneys, or liver, reducing you pet's life expectancy. **AS DENTAL DISEASE PROGRESSES, IT CAUSES PAIN AND CAN CAUSE ADVERSE CHANGES IN YOUR DOG OR CAT'S BEHAVIOR.**

PERIODONTAL DISEASE

Periodontal disease is the most common infectious disease in dogs and cats. It begins with inflammation at the gingival margin. Bad breath may be evident in the early stage. As it progresses, edema from the gingival margin causes the pockets to deepen and start to fill with pus. Bone becomes lost around the tooth and the tooth can become moveable. Periodontal disease results from the effect of oral bacterial toxins.



DENTAL CARE

We can provide dental care for our friends in the form of calculus control. Calculus is the formation of cement-like tartar on the tooth and under the gums from the byproducts of bacterial infection. Calculus is reduced by friction from chewing on hard objects. If you start with calculus control in a young animal with healthy teeth and gums, you can prevent the onset of periodontal disease. If your pet has periodontal disease, the teeth must be cleaned by your veterinarian so you can start your home care with a clean mouth.

DENTAL X RAYS

Our best tool to determine whether a tooth needs to be extracted is the dental radiograph. Dental radiographs allow us to see the condition of the tooth below the gumline. Sometimes the appearance of a tooth to the naked eye can be deceiving. X-rays prevent unnecessary extractions and prevent decaying teeth from being left in the mouth. In addition, the next time your pet comes in for a dental procedure we will be able to compare radiographs, and track your pet's dental health. Dental radiographs are also cost effective. Taking one dental x-ray can cost quite a bit less than extracting one tooth, depending on the tooth. Teeth are extracted when their condition is either unsalvagable and is causing harm to the pet, or if a tooth is questionable but home dental care is not feasible. Remember, dental disease affects your pet's entire body, and can result in an early death for your pet.

HOME CARE:

- BRUSH TEETH WITH CANINE/FELINE TOOTHPASTE
- CET DENTAL CHEWS
- SCIENCE DIET T/D (Tooth Diet) as regular diet or daily treats
- OraVet weekly sealant
- DENTAL CARE TOYS-i.e. Kongs, Dental Ropes, etc.
- CHLORHEXIDINE RINSES

ALL THESE THINGS CAN BENEFIT YOUR PETS' DENTAL HEALTH, BUT YOU NEED TO START WITH A CLEAN MOUTH!! SO GET YOUR PETS TEETH CLEANED TODAY AND START YOUR BEST FRIEND ON THE WAY TO HEALTHY TEETH AND GUMS AND GOOD GENERAL HEALTH.