

FEBRUARY PET DENTAL HEALTH MONTH



Good Oral Health is important to the wellness of your pet.

consider the following questions:

Is your pet older than three years of age?

Has your pet's eating habits changed?

Does your pet's teeth look stained?

Does your pet's mouth smell bad?

Does your pet have loose or missing teeth?

Does your pet shy away when you touch their face?

NEARLY **80%** OF ALL DOGS & CATS

OVER **4 YEARS** OF AGE

SUFFER FROM MODERATE TO SEVERE DENTAL DISEASE¹



80%
of dogs over 3 years of age show signs of oral disease²



70%
of cats over 3 years of age show signs of oral disease³

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, chances are they suffer from a dental disease.⁴



3/4 OF ALL MIDDLE-AGED DOGS HAVE IRREVERSIBLE GUM DISEASE.⁵



Must Knows

Dental disease causes tooth loss and painful inflammation.

Dental disease can cause life-threatening infections of the heart, liver, and kidneys.

Tartar and plaque cause bad breath, gum disease, and infections.

Routine teeth cleaning can prevent tartar and plaque build-up.

With the proper treatments, some dental care issues can be reversed.²

Prevention

is the key to good dental health.



Regular veterinarian visits



Routine oral examinations



Veterinary dental cleaning



Routine home dental care¹

Schedule your appointment for a dental check-up now.
Dental care can extend the life of your pet!



¹ American Veterinary Dental College. (2014). Information for Owners. <http://www.avdc.org/ownerinfo.html>. Retrieved on December 26, 2014.

² Eldredge, D. M., Carlson, L. D., Carlson, D. G., & Gillette, J. M. (2007). Dog Owner's Home Veterinary Handbook (Fourth ed.). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing, Inc.

³ Eldredge, D. M., Carlson, D. G., Carlson, L. D., & Gillette, J. M. (2007). Cat Owner's Home Veterinary Handbook (Third ed.). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing, Inc.

⁴ American Animal Hospital Association. (2012). AAHA Dental Health Care Guidelines. http://www.aahapet.com/PetCare/PetCare4-04.aspx?file=AAHA_Dental_Care_Guidelines. Retrieved on December 26, 2014.

⁵ <http://www.healthypets.merck.com/for-the-people/diseases/diseases/2010/02/17/gum-disease-leads-to-heart-disease.aspx>



HOW DOES YOUR PET'S MOUTH LOOK?

Dental disease is a silent process that may cause many other illnesses, including kidney, heart, and blood infections. When pets don't receive the dental care they need to keep their teeth clean and their gums healthy, their mouths can harbor bad bacteria. Ask your nurse or veterinarian for more information.



Stage 1

Here is a healthy mouth with normal bacterial flora, sound gums, and minimal plaque buildup.



Stage 2

You can see the inflammation caused on the gum tissue from the bacterial buildup in the beginning stages of dental disease. While the teeth still appear somewhat healthy, the health of the mouth is starting to decline.



Stage 3

This shows an unhealthy oral cavity with unfavorable bacteria, gum and inner lip ulcerations, receding gums, root exposure, and plaque buildup. Some tooth loss is probable. This condition may be painful.



Stage 4

This mouth is full of pus, bacteria, and disease. The teeth are falling out and the gums are severely inflamed and infected. The roots are infected and exposed. Tooth loss is eminent. This condition is probably painful.