

# DENTAL DISEASE

## WHAT IS DENTAL DISEASE?

Research shows that 80% of dogs and 70% of cats suffer from dental disease. This starts with the accumulation of **plaque**, a bacterial film on the teeth, which if not removed will harden to form **tartar**, which requires professional removal.

Plaque and tartar can lead to **gingivitis**, an inflammation of the gums where they become red and painful and may bleed easily. If left untreated gingivitis will progress to **periodontal** disease where the soft tissues supporting the teeth become infected and the teeth may become loose. Infection in the mouth can also enter the blood stream and cause disease in other organs such as the heart, liver or kidneys.

Cats may also suffer from lesions at the gum margin which may be hidden under tartar or inflamed gums. Known as neck lesions (or FORLs) these lesions can be very painful and will often make the cat reluctant to eat.

## WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF DENTAL DISEASE?

- Bad breath
- Build up of tartar
- Inflamed or bleeding gums
- Reluctance to eat—especially hard food
- Rubbing or pawing at mouth
- Dribbling saliva
- Pain around the mouth
- Swelling around face and eyes

Bad breath is often the first sign of oral hygiene problems...



## TREATMENT OF DENTAL DISEASE

Plaque and mild gingivitis can be treated at home by regular brushing, using enzymatic pastes and gels. For those who find brushing difficult there are now a wide range of products available to help maintain oral health, including abrasive foods such as **Royal Canin Dental**, enzyme impregnated chews/gels, water additives and dietary supplements. All these methods will help to reduce plaque and improve oral health.

Once more severe disease has developed professional treatment will be required to return the mouth to health. Initial treatment will usually involve ultrasonic de-scaling and polishing under general anaesthetic. Loose or damaged teeth will be extracted and any proliferative gum tissue will be trimmed back so that the teeth can be thoroughly cleaned.

Infection will be treated with antibiotics and if pockets of infection exist they will be exposed.

**ESTIMATED COSTS** (including General Anaesthetic & VAT)

CAT	£132.60
Dog 0-12KG	£153.82
Dog 13-24KG	£175.06
Dog 25-40KG	£196.25
Dog >40KG	£217.48

Following dental treatment, we will arrange a check-up with the vet or nurse as appropriate when we will advise you on the best long term home care for your pet.

**HOME CARE**

**Tooth-brushing**

The best way to stop dental disease or prevent recurrence is daily tooth brushing. Most pets will accept having this if you start gently. We have a range of suitable brushes and pastes available and our nurses will be happy to show you how to start brushing your pet's teeth.

**Diets and chews**

A number of products have been produced to help clean your pet's teeth as they eat. **Royal Canin Dental** is a large kibble dried food with an abrasive action helping to remove plaque and tartar as they are eaten. A dental diet has been shown to be the second most effective prevention for dental disease.

**Other dental care products**

There are now a range of products available to help prevent the formation of plaque and tartar, please ask our nurses for advice on the most appropriate products for your pet which include Dentagen Chews, Dentagen water additive, Plaque-Off food additive, CET Toothpaste

**FOR A FREE DENTAL CHECK UP OR  
ADVICE ON DENTAL CARE  
PLEASE MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH ONE OF OUR NURSES**

