

Casula Vet Hospital Elizabeth Drive Animal Hospital August - Dental Month



August is Dental Month!

Welcome to Dental Awareness Month.

Dental health is a very important part of our pet's life.

When dental disease is not taken seriously it can lead to many illnesses that can affect important organs throughout the body.

Periodontal Disease occurs because plaque forms on the teeth 24 hours a day and it is composed of saliva, bacteria, food particles and other components. When plaque is not removed it hardens and forms into tartar, which then causes a red painful swelling of the gums known as gingivitis. There are many stages of gingivitis, each being progressively worse and more painful than the previous stage.

During a dental checkup the Veterinarian will look for signs of disease and find a treatment plan that fits you and your pet. If you feel your pet needs a dental cleaning please speak with us about our special offer!

Animals that have regular check ups and keep up with dental care regime have a 25% longer life expectancy.

Dental health plays a very important role in the wellbeing of your pets.

Each patient will receive a discharge appointment with one of our certified veterinary nurses.

During this appointment our clients will be given instruction on home care along with free samples to aide in the home care process.

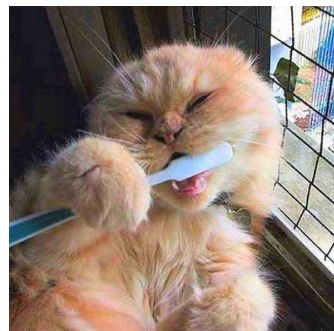
If you are interested in having your pet in for a dental evaluation or scheduling a dental cleaning procedure please feel free to contact our hospitals and our staff will be happy to assist you.



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Look Mom, No Cavities!





Dental Report Card

Gingivitis:
inflammation of the
gums.

This report card is to help you understand what level of dental disease your pet has and what treatment is necessary to minimize progression of oral disease.

Periodontitis:
inflammation and
disease of all
structures that
support the teeth.

Pets with routine dental care typically live longer and healthier lives. Pets with dental disease constantly release bacteria from their mouth into their bloodstream resulting in inflammatory changes in the heart muscle, liver and kidneys in otherwise healthy animals. This problem may be exacerbated in pets that already have other existing diseases

Home dental care is needed to maintain these healthy teeth and gums. Brushing your pet's teeth regularly (3-4 times per week) is good (ideally we'd be brushing their teeth as often as we brush ours!). There are also products available to help make home dental care easier if brushing is not an option.

Plaque: a "biofilm" consisting of 80% bacteria and bacterial toxins, 20% cellular debris and food remnants. It is plaque (especially under the gum line) that causes gingivitis and periodontitis.

Stage 1- Mild Gingivitis

The margin of attached gum is inflamed and swollen. Plaque covers the teeth. Home dental care is needed. IF there is no improvement, dental cleaning is needed within the next year to remove current plaque build-up.



Stage 2- Moderate Gingivitis

The entire gum line is inflamed and swollen. The mouth is painful and odour is noticeable. Dental cleaning to remove calculus is needed within the next month. A calculus control diet and/or home dental care are needed after the dental procedure for prevention.



Calculus (i.e. tartar): is mineralized plaque that cannot be brushed off.

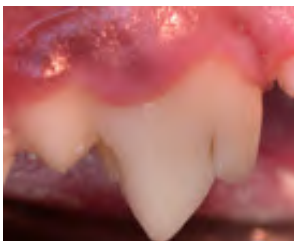
Stage 3- Severe Gingivitis

The gums are cherry red and bleeding- they are damaged by infection and calculus. A sore mouth and bad breath are evident. Dental cleaning to remove calculus is needed immediately. A calculus control diet and/or home dental care are needed after the dental procedure to prevent recurrence.



Stage 4- Periodontal Disease

Chronic infection is destroying the gums, teeth and bone. Bacteria are spreading through the body via the bloodstream and may damage the kidneys, liver and heart. Therefore, antibiotics might be prescribed before or after the dental cleaning procedure. Dental cleaning to remove calculus is needed immediately. Some teeth may be loose and need to be extracted. Home dental care after the dental procedure is necessary for future prevention.



**Well done!
No plaque or
tartar here!**



How to Brush your Pets' Teeth

Step 1:

Have a veterinarian check your pet's teeth before you start a tooth-brushing program. If your pet has gum disease or damaged teeth, the process will be painful and he/ she will associate pain with tooth brushing. He / she may even bite you.

Step 2:

Get your cat or dog used to you looking into his/ her mouth. After each time you do so, reward him/ her with a treat or praise.

Step 3:

Buy a pet dental kit, including toothpaste (made for dogs and cats) and a toothbrush, from us or the pet store. Follow the kit's instructions for use. Research alternatives, such as a finger toothbrush, if your pet refuses to let you brush his/ her teeth with a regular toothbrush. Ask your veterinarian for suggestions.

Step 4:

Place your pet on a comfortable surface while brushing his/ her teeth.

Step 5:

In general, try to use minimal restraint on your pet while brushing especially for a cat. However, it may be easier to handle an especially reluctant cat by wrapping him/ her in a towel to keep him / her from scratching or trying to escape.

Step 6:

Brush your cat's or dog's teeth with a gentle, massaging motion.

Step 7:

Reward your cat or dog with a tartar-control treat after the procedure.



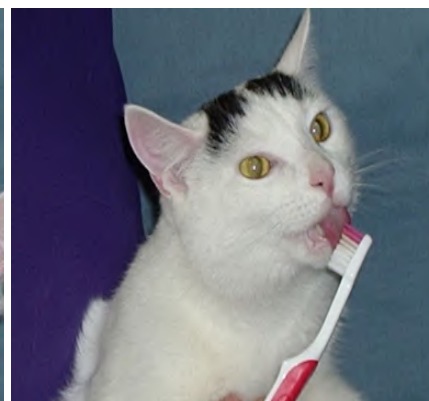
Dental Products

There are many products on the market designed to assist in your pet's dental health and home-care. Please speak to our staff to discuss which products may be best for you and your pets.



Never, ever, use human toothpaste on pets. While we know to spit our toothpaste out, animals often swallow most of their toothpaste.

Pet-safe toothpaste is designed to be safe even if your dog or cat swallows it.





When to bring in your pet for a dental cleaning

Starting at 3 years old, bring your dog or cat to the veterinarian for an annual teeth cleaning.

If you notice any foul odour from your cat's or dog's breath, bring them in for an oral exam.

If your pet suddenly seems uninterested in his or her food, or appears to have difficulty chewing, bring them in for a dental exam.

What actually happens during a dental procedure

When your pet arrives for a cleaning, it is important that they have not been fed. They will be under general anaesthetic for their procedure and will need an empty stomach to ensure a safe procedure.

Your pet will have any elected blood tests done, prior to sedation, to ensure the vital organs (liver & kidneys) are healthy and to give the vets a better picture of what to expect during your pet's recovery.

Your pet will be sedated and then anaesthetized for his or her procedure. We will place a breathing tube to help regulate the amount of anaesthetic and oxygen your pet receives during the procedure.

Finally, using the dental equipment, we begin to remove any build-up of plaque and tartar along the teeth and gum line and then clean and polish the teeth. If we find any broken, damaged or rotting teeth, they must come out. These teeth will quickly become a problem and have your pet right back in the hospital for another dental procedure if left in place.

Our staff monitor every phase of anaesthetic and recovery of your pet and will discuss any results with you upon discharge. This is also a good time to discuss your pets' home health-care regime.



CASULA VETERINARY HOSPITAL

674 HUME HIGHWAY, CASULA 2170

TEL: 9602 9863

ELIZABETH DRIVE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

CNR ELIZABETH DRIVE & WOODLANDS ROAD, LIVERPOOL 2170

TEL: 9602 7018

CONSULTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY