

# Friendly Newsletter

Companion Pet Care- January 2020



*Come see us at the longest-established Veterinary Practice in Encinitas!*

1. Dental Special Month!
2. Importance of Oral Health
3. Patient of the Month

## Dental Special Month!

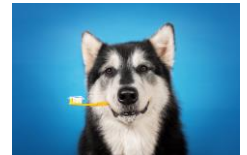
Stinky Breath? Don't turn your nose to you Dog or Cat's bad breath! That odor might signify a serious health risk, with the potential to damage your pet's teeth, gums and even other internal organs.

Most Dental Disease occurs below the gumline, where you can't see it. Bacteria that you can't see can damage the tissues connecting the teeth and jaw. That's why it's so important to have your Veterinarian examine your pet's teeth and perform regular professional cleanings. If you are concerned or curious about your pet's oral health, schedule an Exam to come in and see us.

During the month of February, Companion Pet Care is excited to offer 15% off routine Dental Cleanings for your pets!

## What is the Importance of Oral Health?

Frequently asked Questions about Dental Cleanings:



## What are some causes of Dental Problems?

Humans and pets can actually develop a lot of the same kinds of dental issues; and while cavities aren't common in dogs and cats, some other common problems might include: **broken teeth/roots, periodontal disease, abscessed/infected teeth, cysts or tumors in the mouth, malocclusion (misalignment of teeth and bite), broken jaw, palate defects, etc.**

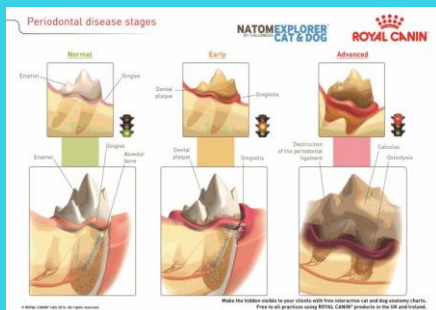
## What exactly is Periodontal Disease?

Periodontal disease is the most common dental condition in dogs and cats – by the time your pet is 3 years old, 70-80% of pets will likely have some early evidence of periodontal disease. Early detection and treatment are critical, because advanced periodontal disease can cause severe problems and pain for your pet. Periodontal disease doesn't just affect your pet's mouth. Other health problems found in association with periodontal disease include kidney, liver, and heart muscle changes.

It starts with plaque that hardens into tartar. Tartar above the gumline can often easily be seen and removed, but plaque and tartar below the gumline is damaging and sets the stage for infection and damage to the jawbone and the tissues that connect the tooth to the jawbone. Periodontal disease is graded on a scale of 0 (normal) to 4 (severe). The treatment of periodontal disease involves a thorough dental cleaning follow-up maintenance.

## Why does Dentistry require Anesthesia?

When you go to the dentist, you know that what's being done is meant to help you and keep your mouth healthy. Your dentist uses techniques to minimize pain and discomfort and can ask you how you are feeling, so you accept the procedures and do your best to keep still. Your pet does not understand the benefit of dental procedures, and he or she reacts by moving, trying to escape, or even biting. Anesthesia makes it possible to perform the dental procedures with less stress and pain for your pet. In addition, anesthesia allows for a better cleaning because your pet is not moving around and risking injury from the dental equipment. If radiographs (x-rays), extractions, or other procedures are needed, your pet needs to be very still in order to get good images, and this is unlikely without heavy sedation or anesthesia. Most pets can go home the same day of the procedure, although they might seem a little groggy for the rest of the day.

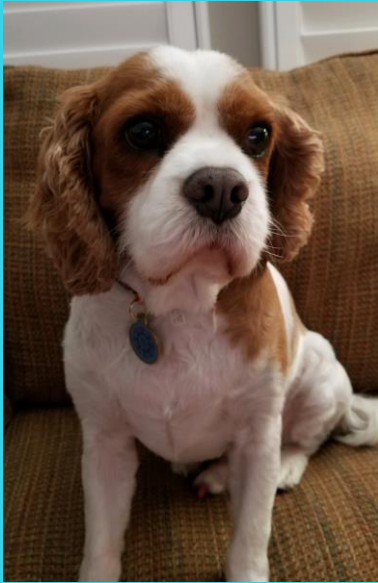


## What can I do at home for my Pet's Oral Health?



Prevention of the most common oral disease in pets consists of frequent removal of the dental plaque and tartar that forms on teeth that are not kept clean. Regularly brushing your pet's teeth is the single most effective thing you can do to keep their teeth healthy between dental cleanings. Daily brushing is best, but it's not always possible and brushing several times a week can be effective. Most dogs accept brushing, but cats can be a bit more resistant – patience and training are important.

There are many pet products marketed with claims that they improve dental health, but not all of them are effective. Talk with us about any dental products, treats, or dental-specific diets you're considering for your pet, or as for suggestions!



## Patient of the Month!

Our brave patient this month is "Max," an adorable, sweet 8 year-old male-neutered King Charles Cavalier Spaniel. He has had a history of severe periodontal disease which was affecting the health of his teeth. This manifested in the way the gums were pulling up and away from the roots of his teeth (gingival recession), causing his teeth to lose the connection with the surrounding bone, leaving them mobile. In 2016, he started to develop gingivitis, and by the end of 2017 he required a dental procedure, where 22 of his teeth were extracted due these conditions. He recovered well from the procedure. However, the teeth he had left started showing similar periodontal disease, and this month all of his remaining teeth were extracted. Normal adult dogs start with 42 teeth, but in Max's case none of those teeth were benefitting him, and he is feeling better without them! Extracting his teeth has put an end to his periodontal disease and the associated discomfort. As a side note, Max had developed a heart murmur within the last few years, which is common in most King Charles Cavalier dogs by the age 10 years. King Charles Cavalier dogs are 20 times more likely to develop heart murmurs than other breeds. Fortunately, Max's heart murmur is benign so far. Max is truly a brave patient with a loving family and we are so happy to know he is doing well after his Dental!

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