



PERIODONTAL DISEASE

General Information

Periodontal disease is a condition that causes breakdown of the bone and soft tissue structures that hold healthy teeth in their normal position. The gum line forms the first line of defense against periodontal disease. Bacteria will grow on retained particles of food trapped between and gum and the tooth in a tiny pocket hidden behind the gum line (perialveolar pocket). These bacteria gradually destroy the defense barrier of the gum line. The bacteria then gain access to the vulnerable structures surrounding the root of the tooth. As this process continues the teeth will loosen and eventually fall out.

Brownish-black material called tartar (a concentration of mineralized bacteria) may collect on the teeth and under the gum line causing ulceration of the underside of the gum margin resulting in pain and bleeding. Bad breath, reddened gum margins, tartar accumulation, loosened teeth, sensitive teeth and gums, and bleeding gums are all signs associated with advanced periodontal disease.

Important Points in Treatment

- Treatment of periodontal disease includes removing tartar (including under the gum line) and polishing the teeth. Antibiotics may be needed with severe gum or bone infection. Sometimes an antibiotic gel is placed under the gum line if very deep perialveolar pockets are present.
- Surgical trimming of excessive gum tissue may be indicated to eliminate deepened pockets as well.
- A general anesthetic is usually necessary for these procedures. Laboratory tests may be required prior to anesthesia to determine your pet's state of health and internal organ function.
- Oral hygiene may be performed at home by brushing your pet's teeth with special toothpastes. This will reduce the frequency that professional dental care will be needed but not totally eliminate it. Do not use human toothpaste on your pet—it can upset their stomach if they swallow it.

Are there dangers if dental care is not performed?

Yes. Other than the obvious pain of infected gums and teeth and the risk of losing teeth, there are other health hazards associated with chronic gingivitis (gum infections). These include valvular endocarditis (scar tissue on the heart valves), chronic interstitial nephritis (gradual replacement of kidney tissue with scar tissue), septacemia (bacteria in the bloodstream), and abscesses in the jaw bones.

Pets with clean healthy teeth are more fun to be around than those with periodontal disease. Their breath smells better, they feel better, and they live longer.

Your Pet's Dental Condition Today:

- Your pet's teeth and gums are healthy.
 Your pet's teeth will require a dental cleaning within the next 12 months.
 Your pet's teeth and gums not healthy and immediate dental care is indicated.
 Other: _____

Thank you for this opportunity to serve you!

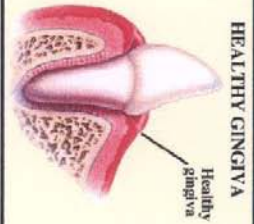
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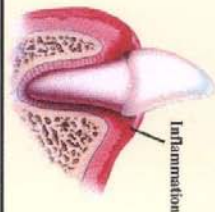
PERIODONTAL DISEASE IN THE DOG AND CAT

DAILY BRUSHING AND PROFESSIONAL DENTAL CARE AT REGULAR INTERVALS HELP PROMOTE ORAL HEALTH AND LONGEVITY.

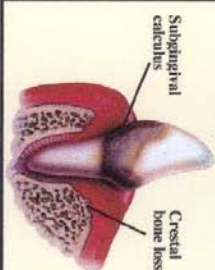
BACTERIA ASSOCIATED WITH PERIODONTAL DISEASE MAY DAMAGE THE KIDNEYS, LIVER AND HEART.



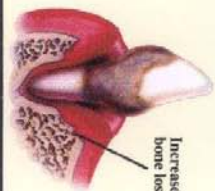
HEALTHY GINGIVA
 Healthy gingiva



GINGIVITIS
 Inflammation



EARLY PERIODONTITIS
 Subgingival calculus
 Crestal bone loss



MODERATE PERIODONTITIS
 Increased bone loss



ADVANCED PERIODONTITIS
 Advanced breakdown of support tissues



BRUSHING TECHNIQUE
 Home care is essential to maintain oral health.

The brush should be rotated in a circular fashion at a 45° angle with emphasis on the stroke away from the gingiva.



The technique for the cat is similar to the dog.

