



DENTAL CARE

What are some things I can do to prevent tartar build-up and bad breath for my pet?

Regular brushing of your pets teeth can help prevent tartar build-up. There are also some diets that help prevent and break-up tartar. Specific enzymatic chew toys prevent the build-up of tartar but make sure they are an appropriate size so your pet won't swallow them whole. Some water additives can also help keep bacteria levels down in the mouth and keep plaque from building up.

Why should I get my pets teeth cleaned and what does it involve?

There are many reasons to have regular dental cleaning for your pet. Oral disease is the most frequently diagnosed infectious disease in pets and by the time they are 4 years old, 85% of dogs and cats show signs of oral disease. If this isn't taken care of it can lead to severe pain, bad breath, tooth abscesses and tooth loss. Long term infections in the mouth can spread to the major organs like the heart and kidney and can lead to other major health problems. A routine cleaning involves ultrasonic scaling under general anesthesia. Blood work is recommended before your pet receives a dental and all anesthetic protocols are individualized to your pets specific needs. All the teeth are scaled and then the doctor checks for signs of decay, gum recession, fractures or lesions that would be detrimental to the overall oral health. All of our patients receive pain medication while they are under anesthesia in order to minimize the pain associated with the procedure.

February is National Dental Month and we always have specials on teeth cleaning and free gifts. For more information about dental health please visit: www.oregonvma.org/care-health/dental .