



# Vets Love Pets!



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## National Pet Dental Month

Dental disease is as common in pets as it is in humans, and during the month of February we are highlighting National Pet Dental month and the importance of pet oral care and hygiene. Pets often have problems with their teeth and gums. Unable to brush and floss, they rely on their owners and veterinarians to provide the care they need. To book your complimentary dental consultation please talk with any one of our veterinary health care team at **458-6051** who will be glad to discuss any concerns you may have together with treatment options.



### Tartar Facts

While the most common form of dental disease in humans is cavities, this is not the case in cats and dogs. A build-up of tartar (plaque and calculus) around the teeth is the biggest problem. This causes irritation of the gums around the base of the teeth (gingivitis), resulting in exposure of the roots which can ultimately lead to infection and tooth loss.

If tartar is allowed to remain on the teeth, several things can happen:

1. The tartar will push the gums away from the roots of the teeth, this causes the teeth to loosen in their sockets and infection to enter the root socket. If the teeth do become loose, they can fall out or will have to be extracted.
2. Infection will accumulate in the mouth, resulting in gingivitis, tonsillitis, and pharyngitis (sore throat). Although antibiotics may temporarily suppress the infection, if the tartar is not removed from the teeth, infection will return quickly.
3. Infection within the mouth will be picked up by the blood stream and carried to other parts of the body including vital organs such as kidney, liver, lung and heart. Infections in these organs frequently begin in the mouth.

### Recognizing signs of dental problems:

- Bad breath
- Drooling
- Difficulty eating
- Bleeding gums
- Pawing or rubbing the mouth
- Loose teeth or tooth loss
- Yellow or brown tartar on teeth



Example of Gingivitis

Gingivitis is a progression of tartar when the gum line colour changes from coral pink to red or purple. Swelling is apparent and plaque and calculus are present above and below the gum line.



Example of Periodontitis

Periodontitis is deeper gum inflammation, gum recession and loss of tooth support which can cause permanent damage.



Broken teeth are a common problem, especially among outdoor dogs as aggressive chewing on hard objects such as sticks, bones and rocks is a primary cause of broken teeth in dogs. Small dog breeds are more likely to develop periodontal disease than large dogs because the teeth of smaller dogs are often too large for their mouths.



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# AQUARIUS

21 Jan - 19 Feb

**DOGS:** Aquarian dogs are known for their sense of humor and ability to perform. They'll enjoy being on TV, in commercials and movies. They are the canine equivalent to the circus clown. They are very interested in you and the things around them - they will concentrate when you talk to them, tilting their heads to one side and listening intently. It may take a little time to gain their trust but, once done, they will trust you with it for life. They can be a little unpredictable - calm and docile one minute then shocking you with wild funny antics the next. There won't ever be a dull moment with an Aquarian dog.

**CATS:** Aquarian cats can be a bit of a daydreamer, and one problem they may have is moving around while day dreaming. This can sometimes have hilarious results like walking on the window ledge and stepping off the end and landing on the couch. They are very loving and have no interest in fighting or hunting. They never throw fits or stomp around like you did them wrong. They are also not demanding, and will give their love freely and generously. They will however expect good food, loving attention, plenty of places to roam and lots of hiding places.

At around the age of 2, 70% of cats and 80% of dogs have some signs of dental disease.



## Book Your February Complimentary Dental Consultation Now



Tudor Glen Veterinary Clinic once again is pleased to offer complimentary dental consultations during February - Pet Dental Month. The consultation will include an oral exam, a demonstration on how to brush your pet's teeth, a discussion on nutrition and a bag of dental food. We do not charge for these consultations - it's our way of promoting pet dental awareness. To book a complimentary consultation, please talk with one of our veterinary health care team at: **458-6051**.



## Hill's Prescription Diet t/d Cleans teeth while pets eat

- Clinically proven to reduce gingivitis, build-up of tartar, plaque and stain
- Reduces bad breath caused by plaque and oral disease
- Helps promote a healthy immune system and long life with a powerful combination of vitamins E + C, beta-carotene and selenium
- Helps promote healthy skin and shiny coat with Omega-3 and Omega-6 fatty acids
- Great taste your pet will love!

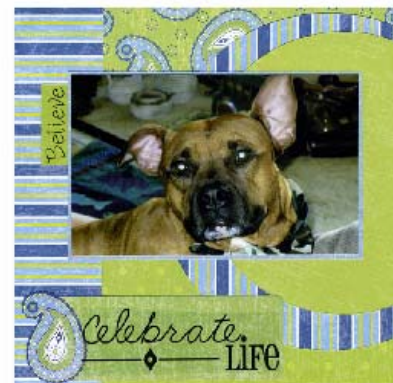
Please ask any member of our veterinary health care team for more information on Hill's t/d food and it's benefits.

## SCRAPBOOK YOUR FAVOURITE PET PHOTOS

Friday March 7, 7pm - 10pm

Join the staff here at the clinic to learn how to make your own personalized scrapbook page from your favorite pet photos. Just bring 4-6 photographs of your pet/s and we will supply everything else you'll need. \$5 donation to our in-house animal charity "Benny's Angels".

Sign up at reception to book your place.



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