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ORAL HYGIENE AND YOUR PET

Dental disease is as common in pets as it is in humans, and this month we are highlighting 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 to discuss the state of your pets oral health, please talk with any one of our veterinary health care team at 458-6051 or learn more on our website at www.tudorglenvethospital.ca

The Truth About Tartar

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.

Periodontitis

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



Example of Periodontitis

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 Gingivitis

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.



THE SIGNS

The following are symptoms that your pet may have 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

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CANCER

22 June – 23 July

DOGS: Cancerian dogs are the most sensitive of all the zodiac signs and as such they are very attached and attentive to their owner and they need to know that you need them so be sure to give them lots of love and reassurance. They will do everything in their power to protect your house from uninvited guests and want nothing more than to make you happy. They are good with children and think that they are one of them. Your dog should have been born with flippers not paws for the Cancerian dog will jump into water at every opportunity.

CATS: With the moon as the ruler of Cancer it is not surprising that cats born under this sign are true to their nocturnal nature. You could have trouble rousing them during the day but at night they're extremely active. And they love the sound of their own voice. If you hear a tom cat wailing in the early hours it's most probably a Cancerian. Fortunately, they're not prone to fighting and will timidly back off. You'll just love your Cancerian cat as they'll melt your heart with their constant need for affection.

FREE DENTAL CONSULTATIONS



As always, Tudor Glen Veterinary Clinic is pleased to offer complimentary dental consultations. 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!



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

