

# LET'S TALK TEETH

DENTAL HEALTH HELPS ENSURE  
GOOD OVERALL HEALTH



ZOETIS PETCARE

# THE IMPORTANCE OF DENTAL CARE

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- Periodontal disease is the most common infectious disease in dogs and cats, affecting 75% of dogs < 4 years of age and 73% of cats > 4 years of age.<sup>1-4</sup>
- Oral disease impacts your pet's overall health. Studies have shown a link between dental disease and changes in internal organs, such as the heart, kidneys and liver.<sup>5</sup>
- Dental Disease is a progressive disease that can be very painful for your pet.<sup>1</sup>
- The cost and time to perform a preventive dental procedure is far less than the cost and time of treatment of a serious dental problem. The cost to treat dental disease is 5-6 times the cost of a preventive cleaning.<sup>6</sup> Increased time and cost are due to the need for extraction of teeth or other more extensive procedures.

**40 MINUTES  
OR 3-4 HOURS**



**PREVENTIVE CLEANING  
FOR STAGE 1 DISEASE**  
(Approximately 40-minute procedure)



**ADVANCED PROCEDURE  
FOR STAGE 2 DISEASE**  
(3-4 hour procedure)

## **THE GOOD NEWS: DENTAL DISEASE IS LARGELY PREVENTABLE.**

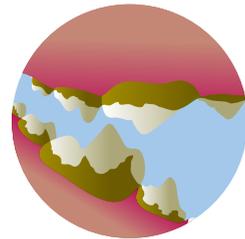
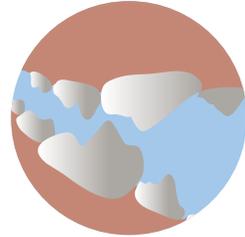
Routine dental cleanings and checkups, along with an at-home plan, can keep your pet's teeth and gums healthy.

# WHAT CAUSES DENTAL PROBLEMS?

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## PLAQUE AND TARTAR

- Dental disease is the result of the buildup of soft plaque on the surface of the teeth around the gums.
- As plaque bacteria accumulates, it can lead to inflammation and edema. Untreated inflammation can progress to gum and/or bone loss.
- Tartar (calculus) forms on the tooth surface as the plaque mineralizes. The tartar helps collect even more plaque. Once tartar has formed on the teeth, it's difficult to remove it without dental instruments.



## SOME PETS ARE MORE PRONE TO DENTAL DISEASE



Small-breed dogs—due to tooth size, compact muzzle and arrangement of teeth



Patients with persistent deciduous teeth (baby teeth), crowded teeth and bite abnormalities (overbite, underbite, etc.)



Pets with fractured teeth, discolored teeth, mobile teeth, apparently missing teeth and other tooth abnormalities

# SIGNS OF DENTAL DISEASE

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- Bad breath
- Loose or discolored teeth
- Sensitivity to having the mouth touched
- Drooling or dropping food from the mouth
- Occasional bleeding of gum tissue
- Decreased appetite or weight loss (this combination can result from a number of diseases, therefore, early veterinary examination is important)<sup>6</sup>

**HOWEVER, EVEN WITHOUT THE ABOVE SIGNS, YOUR PET MAY STILL BE SUFFERING IN SILENCE FROM DENTAL PROBLEMS.**



# STAGES OF CANINE DENTAL DISEASE

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## STAGE 1

### GINGIVITIS

- Gum tissue around the teeth becomes inflamed and swollen
- Plaque and tartar are present



## STAGE 2

### MILD PERIODONTITIS

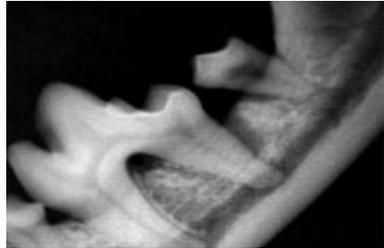
- Inflammation and oral bacteria result in loss of attachment of the soft tissue and destruction of the bone
- There is up to 25% attachment loss, which progresses to destroy more gum tissue and bone around the teeth
- The inflammation causes pain
- Patient has bad breath



## STAGE 3

### MODERATE PERIODONTITIS

- Continued loss of soft tissue and bone around the teeth
- There is up to 50% attachment loss
- Inflammation results in intermittent bleeding of gums
- Tooth roots are exposed due to gingival recession and/or bone loss
- Oral pain can affect eating habits and behavior



## STAGE 4

### SEVERE PERIODONTITIS

- Progression of moderate periodontitis
- There is 50% or more attachment loss
- Teeth are mobile, depending on the amount of bone loss
- Chronic inflammation and pain
- Studies have shown a link between dental disease and changes in internal organs, such as the heart, kidneys and liver<sup>5</sup>



# TYPES OF FELINE DENTAL DISEASE

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## STOMATITIS

- Gums and surrounding tissue are severely inflamed and swollen
- The inflammation frequently extends into the back of the mouth
- The patient is in great pain and has difficulty eating
- The following may be present: bad breath, thick and ropery saliva, unkempt hair coat, loss of appetite and weight loss



## TOOTH RESORPTION

- Gum tissue is inflamed and swollen
- There is destruction (resorption) of the tooth structure that starts below the gumline where the tooth crown and root meet
- This process is very painful and progressive
- Dental X-rays are necessary to determine the pattern of resorption, which dictates treatment



# WHY ANESTHESIA IS IMPERATIVE

# WHY IS GENERAL ANESTHESIA NECESSARY?

All patients undergoing dental procedures (evaluation, cleaning, dental surgery) should be placed under general anesthesia to ensure patient safety, comfort and the most effective dental care.

- Recommended by AAHA, AVMA, ACVAA and AVDC

## GENERAL ANESTHESIA ...

- Reduces the anxiety, stress and pain your pet experiences
- Allows safe intubation, protecting your pet from inhaling bacteria and debris from the dental cleaning
- Minimizes the time needed to complete the oral exam and any necessary dental diagnostics (e.g., X-rays)
- Ensures a thorough and complete dental cleaning for your pet

## IS ANESTHESIA SAFE?

Regardless of the reason for anesthesia and the patient's underlying health, the risk of complications during anesthesia is low for healthy dogs and cats.<sup>7</sup>

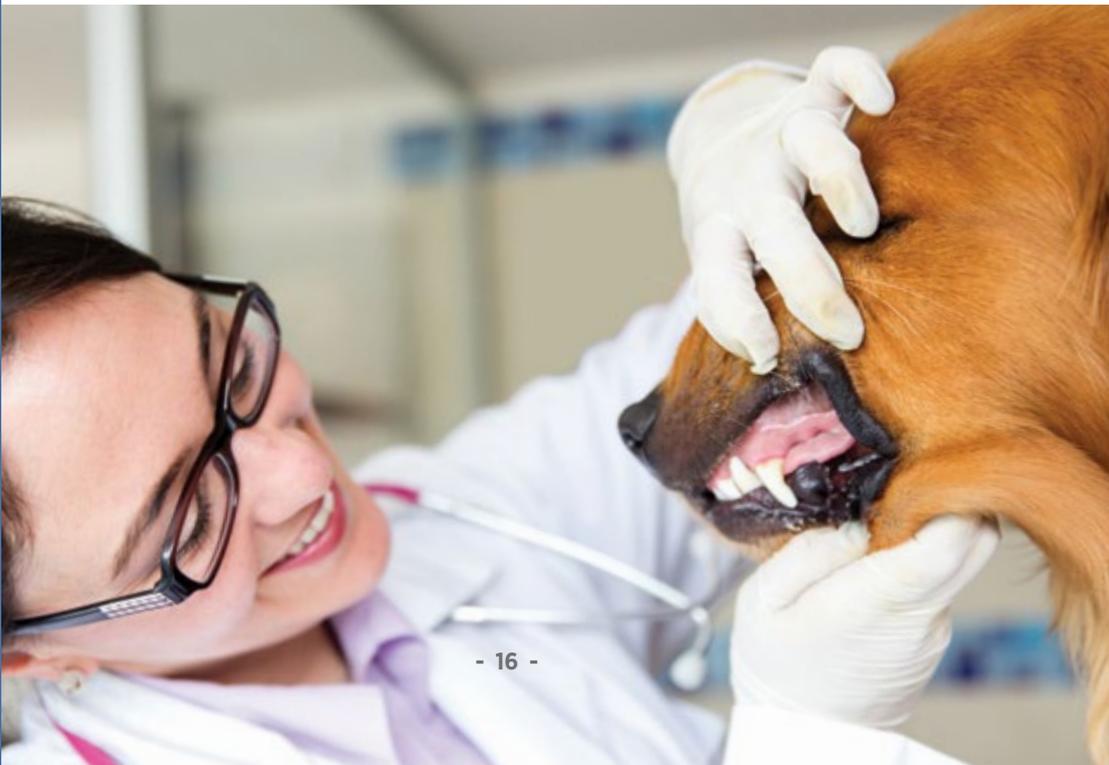
- Higher risks exist for<sup>7</sup>:
  - pediatric and geriatric dogs and cats
  - severely underweight or obese dogs and cats
  - emergency surgeries
  - lengthy surgeries
  - dogs and cats that are already sick
- Most of the drugs used to anesthetize dogs and cats are the same ones used in people
- During the dental procedure close monitoring of vital signs, providing analgesics and fluids and assessing the depth of anesthesia are routine, to ensure the safety and comfort of the patient
- Routine dental cleanings mean that the time spent under general anesthesia is reduced, making it safer and less invasive

# THE DENTAL EXAM AND CLEANING: WHAT TO EXPECT

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## BEFORE

- You'll be asked for a detailed history of your pet—diet, chewing habits, chew toys and subtle changes noted.
- Your pet will receive a complete physical exam, including an oral exam. Even a quick look into the oral cavity can reveal the extent of plaque and calculus deposit, as well as broken or chipped teeth, with presence of stomatitis or resorptive lesions in cats and other problems.



## DURING THE PROCEDURE

- Your pet will be given appropriate medications to calm your pet and analgesics to manage pain. Your pet will then be placed under general anesthesia so that your pet will be asleep through the entire dental procedure.
- Your pet's teeth and gums will be visually assessed and the findings recorded.
- Probing under the gums to detect abnormal pockets will help determine the stage of dental disease.
- Intraoral radiographs (dental X-rays) are taken for an accurate evaluation and diagnosis.
- Teeth cleaning will be performed to remove tartar by using an ultrasonic scaler and hand instruments.
- Your pet's teeth will then be polished, removing residual plaque and smoothing the surface of the teeth.
- An antibiotic might be used under the gum of a tooth with a deep pocket to promote healing and avoid a future extraction.
- With more advanced dental disease, surgical intervention, such as extraction (removal of teeth), might be needed.

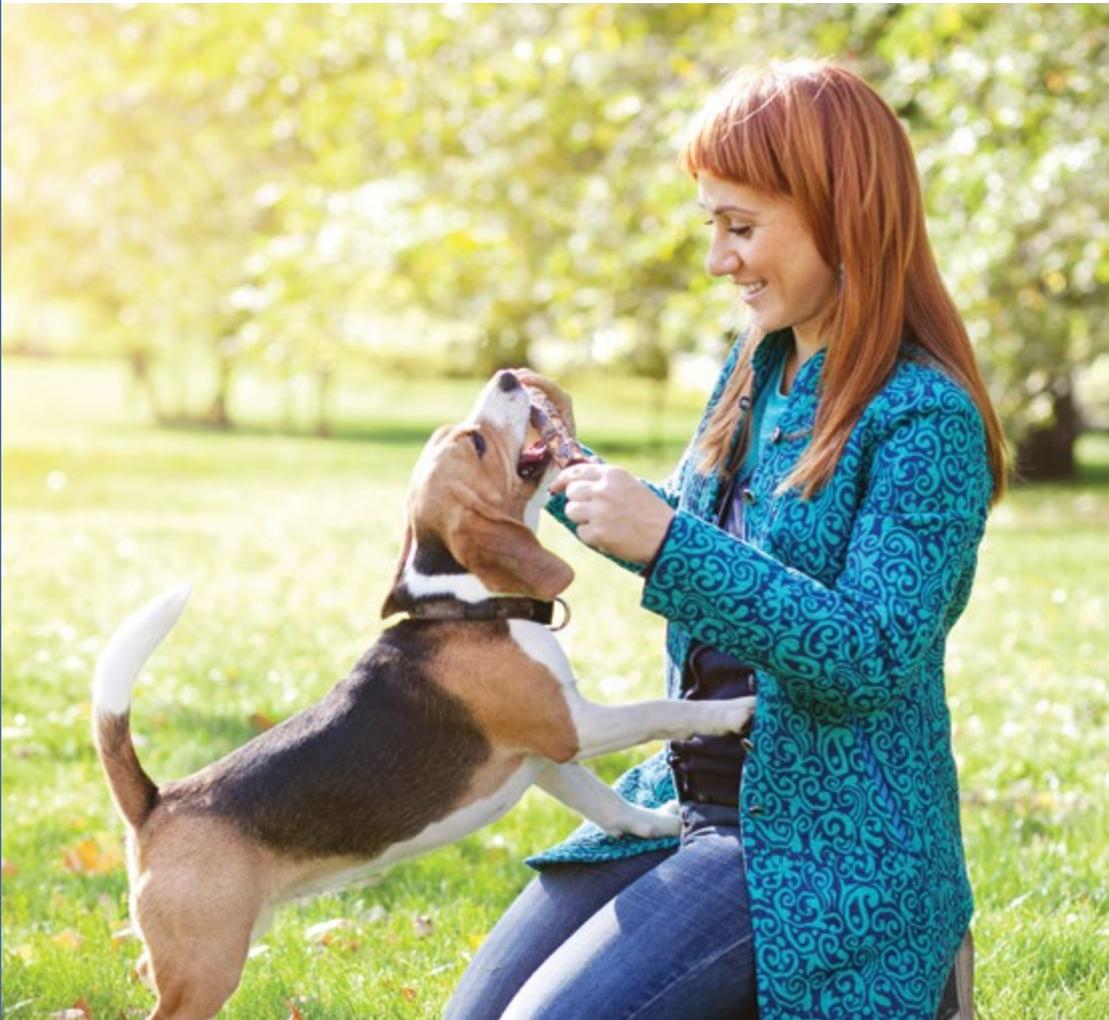


## AFTER THE PROCEDURE

- Administer any prescribed postoperative medications, such as antibiotics or pain medication.

## HOME CARE BETWEEN PROCEDURES

- Brush your pet's teeth daily.
- Feed your pet a dental diet and give appropriate chew toys.
- Schedule routine professional dental cleanings and exams.



# ZOETIS PETCARE

WE TAKE CARE OF PETS LIKE PETS TAKE CARE OF YOU.™