

Sifferlin Animal Clinic, Inc.
1636 St. Rt. 39 NW
Dover, Oh 44622
330-343-3349

DENTAL DISEASE IN DOGS AND CATS

General Information

Dental calculus (tartar) is composed of various mineral salts, organic material and food particles. In the early stages of accumulation, the material is soft (plaque), but it later hardens and adheres to the teeth. Continual accumulation causes inflammation of the gums and eventual recession of the gums and loose teeth. The breath becomes very odorous and the mouth becomes a dangerous source of infection. Complications such as cavities and abscesses are very common. Dental disease is very painful for your pet.

Untreated tooth and gum disease allows bacteria to enter the bloodstream and causes damage to the valves of the heart. All organs can eventually become diseased from bad teeth. An older pet or a medically ill patient is even more compromised from dental disease. All breeds of cats and dogs can be affected. In dogs, the smaller the breed the higher the incidence.

We at Sifferlin Animal Clinic will inform you when it is necessary to have your pet's teeth professionally cleaned by us. Some pets require dental procedures every 6 months to 12 months. Anesthesia is required to perform a professional cleaning. A professional cleaning is scaling and scraping of all tartar and plaque, polish and fluoride treatments. Sometimes teeth extractions are necessary. Medical treatment is frequently needed along with the dental procedure. Again a professional dental cleaning is usually needed several times in your pet's lifetime and will aid your pet in living a long and pain free life.

PREVENTION OF DENTAL DISEASE

- * Feed hard or coarse dog or cat foods.
 - * T/D diet (by Hill's) as treats or as a sole diet
 - * Rinse mouth daily basis with dental flush.
 - * Provide CET Chewies
 - * Brush your pet's teeth daily.
- * Remember, a regular professional clean by your veterinarian is the most effective way to ensure good dental health for your pet.

SCHEDULING A DENTAL PROCEDURE

We do dental procedures on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Again, anesthesia is necessary to allow the professional dental procedure to be performed. We do recommend pre-anesthetic bloodwork. No food is allowed after 7pm the night before, but do allow water. Drop off time is between 8-8:30 a.m. and pick up time is between 4-4:30p.m.