

Hello Everyone!

There are quite a few things going on at the hospital this February! First of which is that February is Dental month and we will be doing a dental themed raffle in support of the Farley Foundation. Tickets are available at reception for a suggested donation of 2 dollars.

February 27th is also national cupcake day in support of the OSPCA and we will be hosting a good old fashioned bake sale in the front lobby! We hope to see you all there!

## Comprehensive Dental Care for Cats & Dogs

Routine dental care is a critical component of cats' and dogs' oral and overall health, but most pets don't get the oral hygiene care they need to keep their teeth and gums healthy and prevent dental disease.

Apart from causing pain and discomfort in your pet's mouth, dental disease can impact other parts of the body. The bacteria in the mouth can enter the bloodstream and cause infections in vital organs such as the liver, the heart and the kidneys. This is why routine at-home and professional dental care are so important.

At our Napanee veterinary hospital, we provide complete dental care for your pet, from basics such as dental exams, teeth cleanings and polishing, to dental X-rays, surgeries, and education for at-home dental care.



### Dental Surgery at Napanee Vet Hospital

We understand that finding out that your pet needs dental surgery can be stressful. We strive to make this process as comfortable and easy as possible, for you and for your pet.

We'll break down each step of the process to you in detail before the procedure, including preparation and post-operative care requirements. We offer tooth extractions, and gum disease treatment for dogs and cats.

### Pet Teeth Cleaning & Exams

Much like your annual checkup at the dentist, your dog or cat should come in for a dental examination at least once a year. Pets who are more prone to dental problems or have existing gum disease may need to see us more often.



Napanee Veterinary Hospital can assess, diagnose and treat dental health problems in cats and dogs.

*If you notice any of the following symptoms in your pet, it's time for a dental checkup.*

- Tartar buildup
- Loose and/or broken teeth
- Extra teeth or retained baby teeth
- Bleeding from the mouth
- Bad breath
- Pain or swelling in or around the mouth
- Reduced appetite or refusal to eat
- Abnormal chewing, drooling, or dropping food from the mouth
- Discoloured teeth



A thorough pre-anesthetic physical assessment will be completed for your pet before the dental exam.

We will complete a thorough blood analysis to ensure it's safe for your pet to undergo anesthesia. Additional diagnostics, such as chest radiographs or an ECG may also be conducted.

Once your pet is under anesthesia, we will conduct a complete oral examination (tooth by tooth) and charting.

Next, the teeth are cleaned and polished (including under the gum line) and X-rays are taken. The final step is to polish the teeth using a veterinary approved toothpaste. If advanced periodontal disease is found, the veterinarian will develop a treatment plan and discuss it with you.



Ideally, a follow-up examination will be scheduled 1 week after the treatment and a courtesy call is made to touch base 12 weeks after your pet's appointment.

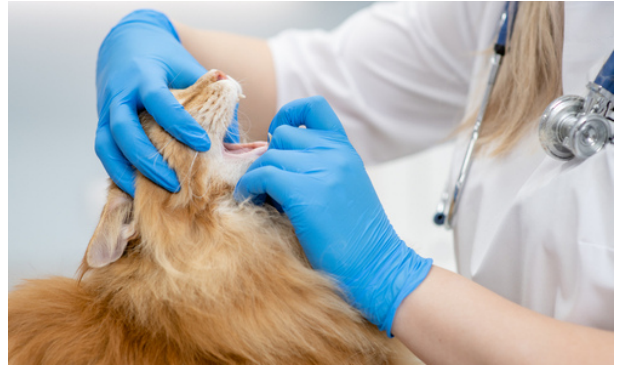
During this visit, we will discuss implementing teeth brushing at home. We can also recommend products that can help improve your pet's oral health.

### **FAQs About Pet Dental Care**

Here are some of the most frequently asked questions from our clients about pet dental care.

- Why do pets need their teeth cleaned?
  - Our pets can develop periodontal disease or tooth decay as a consequence of poor oral health.

- Just like in humans, when animals eat, plaque sticks to their teeth and can build up into tartar if not brushed away regularly.
- This can lead to infections in the mouth, periodontal disease, tooth decay, and even loose or missing teeth. That's why regular dental care is essential to preventing pain or disease in the gums.



- How can I tell if my pet has oral hygiene issues?
  - Did you know behaviour may be an indication of oral health problems? If your pet is experiencing dental problems, they drool excessively (and the drool may contain pus or blood), or you may notice them pawing at their mouth or teeth. They may also yawn excessively, grind their teeth, or stop grooming sufficiently.
  - Other signs of oral health problems include bad breath, swollen gums, and tooth discoloration. Some pets may even suffer from pain that keeps them from eating. Read more about symptoms to the left under Pet Teeth Cleaning & Exams.
- What long-term problems can poor oral health potentially cause in my pet?
  - Besides causing problems ranging from cavities and bad breath to severe periodontal disease, oral health issues and conditions can lead to disease in the liver, kidney, heart, and other areas throughout your pet's body.
  - Cysts or tumours may develop. Your pet may also not feel well in general (if you've ever had a toothache, you know how it can affect your mood!). In addition, diseases related to oral health conditions can shorten the lifespan of your pet and cause significant pain.



- This is why regular dental care is so essential to animals' physical health and wellbeing.

- What happens during a pet's teeth cleaning appointment?
  - During your pet's regular oral exam, the vet will examine his or her mouth and look for oral health conditions or any symptoms needing treatment.
  - The vet will clean tartar and other debris from your cat's or dog's teeth. If cavities, gingivitis, or other conditions need to be addressed, the vet will

explain these to you and provide advice on which actions you should take.

- In some cases, surgery will be needed to treat serious conditions. Your pet will be provided with anaesthesia before their dental procedure to ensure they are comfortable and do not experience any pain. However, special care will be needed post-surgery.

- If you notice any of these symptoms, schedule a dental appointment with us.
- What should I do at home to keep my pet's teeth clean between dental appointments?
  - At home, you should brush your pet's teeth on a regular basis and give them dental chew toys. These will help eliminate plaque.
  - Do not allow them to chew on things that will damage their teeth, such as bones, toys or objects that are too hard. Always contact your vet with any questions or concerns
  - regarding your pet's oral health.

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PET DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

