



Dental Disease

Dental disease, if left untreated, can lead to gum disease and rotting teeth. It is one of the most common conditions found in cats and dogs during veterinary health checks. Smelly breath, plaque build up and discolouration of the teeth are some of the main indicators. Unfortunately, it can also lead to issues of the heart, kidneys and liver due to the bacteria in the mouth.

Key methods for helping to prevent dental disease and remove plaque are:

Brushing

The most effective way to prevent dental disease is by regular brushing of your pet's teeth. We appreciate that with some pets this is easier said than done which is why we recommend implementing dental hygiene from an early age. There are different varieties of dental kits on the market, including the use of pet specific toothpaste that does not contain fluoride (found in human toothpastes).

Fluoride can cause liver irritation, as pets swallow their toothpaste, and are unable to metabolise it.

The current recommendation is to brush at least three times a week but ideally everyday for best results. A nurse can provide a demonstration if required.

Special Diets

These are designed to remove plaque while your pet eats. The individual pieces of kibble are made more fibrous so they do not shatter when bitten, instead the deposits of plaque are rubbed off the sides of the tooth as it penetrates.

For animals where brushing cannot be carried out, this is the next best step for preventing plaque build up.

Dental Toys

These can give some of the mechanical cleaning effect but tend to be chewed in the same part of the mouth the majority of their use and so their effect is limited.

Please note that dental treatments are just providing relief for the problem with the mouth today. Some pets may require dental descale and polishes annually to remove tartar in order to prevent the need for extractions.

We recommend 6 monthly health checks to allow identification of dental disease- these can be performed by one of our nurses.