

Pet Dental Care

February and March are Pet Dental Care Months and just like humans, dogs and cats need regular dental care. Boy this is hard to achieve and I realize that, but plaque, which is an accumulation of bacteria and its waste, can build up and eventually cause periodontal infection. In addition to infections orally, infections under the gum line can spread to cause loose teeth, fractured teeth, tooth loss, gum growths and destruction of healthy organs like the liver, kidneys and heart.

I take a comprehensive team/family approach to dental care. We need everyone in the family to help out. I recommend regular brushing to remove plaque build-up if possible by adult owners daily if able. Brushing daily is best but our teenagers are hard enough to get to brush their own teeth so have them help out with oral hygiene rinses, sprays and/or gel like Vetzlife, Petzlife, Maxiguard, etc. Little kids love to feed our pets and giving tartar diet treats also helps, like Science Diet t/d food as a supplement the regular food or CET oral treats work well too.

In cases where these options are not working, dogs and cats may require a dental procedure for a more rigorous, comprehensive cleaning or treatment of periodontal disease, fractured teeth or oral tumors. I do recommend this for many pets yearly to help get started with great oral care, but it is a team effort. Without the whole family on aboard you can expect yearly cleanings with higher dental expenses and/or more oral disease in your pet. Please contact your veterinarian and work out a team game plan and start making the best oral care possible available for your pet this month.

Dr. Ryan Speltz