

Blacksmith Fork Veterinary Clinic

April 2015

Dental Care and Your Pet



Before



After

Keeping up on your pets oral health is one of the best things you can do for them. In fact, dental care is just as important for pets as it is for you! In a recent study done by the American Animal Hospital Association, only 1/3 of pet owners are providing the regular dental care their pets need!

Periodontal disease starts as plaque, which is bacteria that attaches to the teeth. At first, plaque is soft and able to be agitated by brushing, chewing on hard food or toys to remove it from the teeth. Left alone, however, plaque will harden on the teeth, becoming tartar. Tartar will then spread causing gums to become red and inflamed, building up infection around the root of the tooth, and ultimately leading to loss of the tooth.

Periodontal disease can affect many parts of the body besides just the mouth. Bacteria left in the mouth that is constantly inhaled can lead to more serious health problems in the heart, lungs, and kidneys.

As dental conditions develop, your pet may start acting 'grumpy', not eating as well, or start to have very rancid breath. Other times, you may not notice any obvious signs of pain or discomfort. The best way to monitor your pets health is to have your veterinarian examine your pets teeth at their annual check up to monitor any problems that may be developing.

How to brush your pets teeth

- Start Early: Younger pets are more likely to accept home health care
- Go Slow: Start by holding the pets mouth and placing a finger in the mouth horizontally between cheek and teeth slowly progressing to a brush
- Be Consistent and patient: Tolerating tooth brushing is a learned behavior
- Provide positive reinforcement: Use rewards to increase the likelihood of success

** Do not use human toothpastes, use a toothpaste specially made for cats/dogs**

If your pet already has tartar build up, a descaling procedure is needed. Under anesthesia, the teeth will have the tartar removed ultrasonically and diseased teeth will be extracted. Healthy teeth will be cleaned, polished and given a fluoride treatment. After the dental procedure, your pet will have fresh breath and good oral health!

Up Coming Events

Cache Valley Doggie
Olympics

The Doggie Olympics is a fundraiser for Four Paws Rescue and Cache Humane Society. This is a family event with games for kids, dogs and adults! Olympic events include Musical "Chairs," Dog Frisbee, and an Owner-Dog Look Alike contest and much more. There will be a dozen or so unique events. Food and music too! Leashed, friendly, vaccinated dogs are welcome.

<http://cachevalleydoggieolympics.weebly.com>

Would you like to volunteer? Contact Mary at mary.conner@usu.edu

Saturday May 9, 2015
1:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Cache County
Fairgrounds

Don't forget! Spring is the perfect time to get your Rattlesnake vaccine booster for your dogs, and West Nile vaccine booster for your horses!

**Blacksmith Fork
Veterinary Clinic**

435-245-4710

16 E 6200 S
Hyrum UT

M-F 8am-6pm
Saturday 8am-1pm