



The Carolinas Animal Hospital and Dental Clinic

DENTAL DISEASE TREATMENT

Periodontal disease is the most commonly identified medical problem affecting cats and dogs. This disease progresses due to *bacterial overgrowth* in the mouth, which leads to *tartar* accumulation and *gingivitis* (inflammation and redness of the gumline). As periodontal disease progresses, the *periodontal ligament*, which holds the tooth in the bone, is eroded and the tooth becomes loose. **Bone loss** and **infection** also occur over time. Mouth infections can affect your pet's long-term health and cause bacterial infiltration to damage the *kidneys, liver and heart*. If early periodontal disease is identified in your pet, home dental care may be effective in reversing the problem. However, once it advances to visible tartar and gingivitis, your pet will need to have his/her *teeth ultrasonically scaled and polished*. This removes all of the visible tartar from the surface of the tooth and above the gumline. Unfortunately, dogs and cats will not allow this to occur when they are awake, so the procedure is done under anesthesia.



BEFORE

AFTER

There are many precautions we take when putting animals under anesthesia in order to minimize anesthetic risks. While your pet is under anesthesia his/her *heart rate* and *blood pressure* will be *monitored*. Your pet clears anesthetic agents from his/her system primarily through their kidneys and liver. Therefore, we recommend checking a *blood panel* on ALL patients (regardless of age) prior to anesthesia in order to verify healthy organ function. An I.V. catheter will be placed on all dentistry patients. This additional precaution allows us to administer fluids, which help him/her recover from anesthesia more quickly. It also gives us immediate access to their vein if an emergency situation arises while under anesthesia.

We are fortunate to have a very well equipped dental operatory at The Carolinas Animal Hospital and Dental Clinic and are therefore able to offer our patients excellent dental care. Not all dental problems are apparent by looking at an animal's tooth. Oftentimes, disease can occur below the gumline and a *digital dental x-ray* can be performed to identify and treat these problems before they become painful for your pet. If extractions or other dental procedures are required, which may be painful for your pet, you will take home pain medication for them.

Once your pet's teeth are scaled and polished we are able to apply a sealant (ORAVET) to the surface of the teeth, which will last for 2 weeks. A kit will go home with you to apply the sealant on a weekly basis. This option has been shown to *reduce tartar buildup by up to 50%*. **HOME DENTAL CARE** is ESSENTIAL to maintain the continued health of the teeth. There are other home care options you may elect to do in addition to the sealant, such as *brushing, dental chews or dental diets*. We encourage you to make a DENTAL HOME CARE APPOINTMENT 2 weeks after the procedure to tailor a long term treatment plan for your pet.