

FELINE LYMPHOPLASMACYTIC STOMATITIS (LPS)



Despite proper oral care, there are some cats that are afflicted with severe gingivitis, painful bleeding gums and oral tissue and halitosis (bad breath).

THIS IS A PAINFUL DISEASE

Oftentimes, a cat with LPS will have difficulty eating. In order to confirm this diagnosis, a biopsy of the tissue must be sent to a pathologist. It is theorized that LPS is caused by an **immune reaction against the plaque on the teeth or the dentin of the tooth itself**. It is important to rule out viral causes for this disease, such as Feline Leukemia, FIV and Calicivirus.



Medical treatment of LPS involves intense plaque control. Dental cleanings every 6 months, daily home plaque removal through oral rinses or brushing (which is often not possible due to oral discomfort) can keep some cats with mild cases comfortable. Oral inflammation can be controlled with steroids, but oftentimes the effect is short-lived and cortisone has long-term negative health implications. Many different antibiotics are also used to help control the bacterial infection that complicates LPS, but none of them cure it.

When medical management of LPS fails, the most effective treatment is extraction of all of the cat's teeth. Sometimes the front teeth (incisors and canines) can be spared. This surgical treatment cures greater than 90% of cats with LPS. **Laser therapy** can also be used in combination with tooth extraction to remove and destroy remaining inflammatory tissue, especially in the back of the mouth. The most common concern people have when faced with the decision to surgically treat LPS is that their cat will be in pain and unable to eat. However, it is common for cats to eat within hours of full mouth extractions. In fact, many cats continue to eat dry food even with no teeth. Once a cat's mouth completely heals and the chronic pain and infection is relieved for the first time in their lives, many cat owners report that their cat acts like a kitten again!