



**West Chelsea
Veterinary's**

TIPS & TAILS

News & Tips You Can Use From Your Friends at West Chelsea Veterinary

February 2009

Brushing Up on Your Pet's Dental Health

February is National Pet Dental Health Month

A pet's mouth is as important to them as our hands are to us humans. They use their mouths to eat, play, explore and more. So, when a pet's oral health is out of whack, naturally, all sorts of issues can occur.

FACT: According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), periodontal disease is the number one diagnosed problem in dogs and cats over three years of age. Amazingly, 85% of pets seen by veterinarians have some form of dental disease.



While it may seem silly or impossible, brushing your pet's teeth, or taking other preventative measures, will do more than simply deter bad breath. Brushing their teeth can actually help them live a longer, healthier life, while saving you money in the long run, through prevention.

Poor dental hygiene is directly linked to serious health problems that affect longevity, including risk of heart, liver and kidney disease. Therefore, pet owners should consider pets' dental care as important as their own.



If left untreated, bacteria from plaque and tartar buildup can enter the bloodstream and infect major organs and possibly the nervous system, as well. If not caught in time, a pet's organs can sustain significant damage that can lead to serious illness, or in the most extreme cases, death.

Inside Dental Cleanings

A veterinary dental cleaning almost always involves general anesthesia because no matter how well-mannered a pet is, they don't usually do well with opening their mouths or tolerating the noise and possible discomfort that goes along with a dental cleaning. Before anesthesia, a full panel of blood work is done to check for underlying health issues. The treatment or removal of diseased teeth and plaque and the polishing of teeth follow.



Having a dental cleaning performed will make your pet healthier and happier, while you can enjoy their fresher breath and much improved long term dental health.

Here's the good news:

Periodontal Disease is Preventable and Treatable!

The American Veterinary Dental Society recommends the following three-step process to take the bite out of dental dilemmas:

Step 1: Take your pet to your veterinarian for a complete check up, including a dental exam. Your vet can determine if your pet has a toothache they haven't been able to tell you about!

Step 2: Begin a dental regimen at home. Ideally, it's best to start them on a routine brushing program at an early age, but adult animals can learn to tolerate brushing too.

Step 3: Schedule regular veterinary checkups. These are essential in helping your veterinarian monitor the progress of your pet's dental health routine.



**FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL PET
DENTAL HEALTH MONTH**

West Chelsea Wins Merit Award in Prestigious Design Competition

We're honored to announce Veterinary Economics Magazine has awarded West Chelsea Veterinary with a prestigious Merit Award in the Veterinary Economics 2009 Hospital Design Competition. As a Merit Award recipient, Veterinary Economics Magazine will dedicate a full spread to West Chelsea, in their June, 2009 issue. Veterinary Economics Magazine is an internationally distributed veterinary publication reaching tens of thousands of veterinarians throughout the US and Canada.



Veterinary Economics
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