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Why Does My Pet Need a Professional Dental Cleaning?

Tartar is 80% Bacteria or PUS. Every time a pet bites down, the PUS is injected into the blood stream.

"MOST OFTEN DENTAL DISEASE IS PRESENT BEFORE WE TAKE ACTION."

Most of us remember, or know someone who remembers, having a dog or cat for many years, and the only thing that was required by that pet was food, water, and a rabies shot every 3 years. With all of the progress made in veterinary medicine, just in the last five years, we now know that our pets lives can be extended, and that diseases and disorders which caused their early death years ago, can be greatly minimized. Do you remember the family cat or dog who could knock you over with its breath? A pet with bad breath is sick! Ill from gingivitis, periodontitis, abscesses of the roots, and possibly worse. "He never complains, and always eats." What is that pet's alternative? A dog or cat does not think, "Gee, my mouth hurts. Maybe if I cry or don't eat my family will take me to the vet." ANIMALS BEAR THEIR PAIN QUIETLY, SOMETIMES UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE!

Once tartar has accumulated on the teeth a professional cleaning is mandatory to remove. You cannot brush this tartar away. After your pet's dental cleaning, **YOU** can further reduce tartar deposits by applying brushing your pet's teeth at least 2-3 times per week. This has been shown to greatly decrease the numbers of professional dentistry required by most pets.

Although we are now treating many pets' teeth, much damage may have already been initiated, and that damage may be retarded but not totally stopped by routine dentistry and home treatment. Therefore, even if all of the "right things" are done by you and your veterinarian, teeth may have to be removed in the future. Let's work together to improve the chances of your pet having a healthy mouth - this will also decrease other diseases which can be caused or precipitated by oral disease.

SOME PERTINENT STATISTICS:

- 1) Periodontal disease is one of the most common ailments affecting small animals. Up to 85% of all dogs and cats in the U.S., that are middle-aged and older are affected with dental disease.
- 2) There is a tendency for early stages of plaque (invisible) and tartar accumulation to increase significantly between one and three years of age. By five or six years of age, irreversible changes associated with dental disease become evident.
- 3) Medical intervention is necessary to control the progression of periodontal problems.
- 4) Bacterial infections of the oral cavity, if left unchecked, can lead to septicemic conditions and systemic illness (heart, liver and lung failure; arthritis; etc.).
- 5) Tumors of the oral cavity are common in small animals, and may be precipitated by diseased gums, bone or teeth.
- 6) Proper attention to a pet's dental hygiene by the owner at home can reduce the frequency of gingivitis and lessen the recurrence of dental plaque and tartar accumulation.