



Keep Your Pet Happy and Their Teeth Healthy

Do you pay much attention to your pets' teeth? Dental health can be linked to their overall health, and is therefore important for a happy pet. Even a small amount of tartar contains trillions of bacteria which can lead to pain, bad breath, swollen and bleeding gums, loose teeth, and difficulty eating. It can even lead to infections that spread to other parts of the body, including the heart and kidneys. In your pets mouth a thin film of protein from their saliva, food particles, and dead cells forms on the teeth and gums. If this film is allowed to build, it becomes the perfect environment for bacteria. As the bacteria builds up along the gum line, it can lead to inflamed gums and infection. If allowed to continue the infection can become deeper around the teeth and in severe cases can spread throughout the body.



These problems can be easily avoided with regular exams and dental cleanings. Here at South Anderson Veterinary Clinic, we are willing and able to help keep your pets' mouth clean and healthy. Our veterinarians will look for plaque, gingivitis, broken, missing, or discolored teeth, masses in the mouth, and obvious signs of infection. If any problems are seen during the exam, we may recommend that you schedule an appointment for us to place your pet under anesthesia and thoroughly clean the teeth, above and below the gum line. At this time we can also address any loose or damaged teeth, and check for pockets of infection surrounding each tooth. After examining and cleaning each tooth, we will polish them in order to smooth out the tooth surface making it a little more difficult for bacteria to attach to the teeth. We will also apply a fluoride treatment to help prevent the build up of bacteria.



Dog's Teeth Before Dental Cleaning



Dog's Teeth After Dental Cleaning

After we have cleaned your pets' teeth, you can provide dental care for them at home to help maintain their healthy teeth. A daily brushing routine is the best approach to dental maintenance. Be sure to use toothpastes and toothbrushes formulated specifically for animals. If you have never brushed your pets' teeth

before it is important to start slowly and be patient with them. Please ask any of the staff here at South Anderson Veterinary Clinic for tips on how to get your pet started on a daily brushing routine. There are also many dental toys, treats, chews, water additives and specially formulated foods available for at home care. These options should be used in addition to a daily brushing. When buying such products it is important to look for the VOHC (Veterinary Oral Health Council) seal. The VOHC seal indicates that following clinical trials, the product has met the standards for effectiveness in slowing plaque and tartar build-up when used as directed. If home dental care is not provided, professional cleanings may be needed more often.

Please call us at South Anderson Veterinary Clinic to schedule your pets' dental exam. We can then assist you in formulating a plan for the best possible care of your pets' teeth.