

**Country Roads Veterinary Services, Inc.
Ashland Veterinary Clinic**

Oral Health Preventive Care

Your pet has just received a comprehensive oral health assessment and treatment. It is important that follow up home care be given to prevent a re-occurrence of the dental disease that we treated today. Dental disease is a common but preventable and treatable condition in our pets. If your pet receives no preventive care at home, the plaque and tartar will re-accumulate on your pet's teeth and he/she will require further dental procedures. This handout is a guideline on how to care for your pet's teeth.

Brushing

The most important step in preventing dental disease in pets is to brush your pet's teeth at least every 48 hrs. Use only animal approved toothpaste – not human preparations that may burn your pet's mouth or throat.

Oravet

Oravet is a specially formulated gel that prevents plaque from sticking to the tooth surface. The first application is given by the veterinarian during the treatment of your pet's dental disease. Followup applications are given by the client once a week. Oravet comes in a box that contains 8 treatments. You should return in 2 weeks to have a demonstration on how to apply Oravet to your pet's teeth.

Vaccination

Pfizer Animal Health has a new vaccine that we are recommending for all pets that are at risk for periodontal disease. This vaccine is called a Porphyromonas vaccine and enhances the immune response against the bacteria responsible for periodontal disease. This vaccine does not prevent tartar – it works by preventing bone loss associated with periodontal disease.

Diet

Purina and Hills both make a dental diet that contain enzymes to prevent plaque accumulation as well as break up tartar. Pets that have excess tartar should be placed on a dental diet. These diets are available through our office.

Chew Toys

Rawhide chews as well as specially designed dental chew toys can help to break up tartar on your pet's teeth. If your pet has enamel wear or fractured/broken teeth, then hard chew toys are not recommended. It is a myth that dry food or biscuits prevent dental disease.

Regular Exams and Treatments

If your pet has dental disease, we strongly recommend a full examination every 6 months. If your veterinarian recommends a dental procedure after an exam, we suggest you schedule it as soon as possible. Delaying treatment usually results in more extensive work, which is more invasive, results in the permanent damage of the tooth, increases the need for tooth extractions and increases the cost of the procedures. If you see tartar on your pets teeth then it means they need professionally cleaned. Many pets need their teeth cleaned once a year.

Feel free to call us with any questions or concerns about your pet's oral health care.