



Newsletter

ENDELL VETERINARY GROUP, 49 ENDLESS STREET, SALISBURY, SP1 3UH

SUMMER 2009

Dental disease

What is tartar and how does it arise?

The origin of tartar is dental plaque. Plaque is an invisible film that covers the teeth, containing a mixture of food debris, white blood cells, micro-organisms and dead cells. This environment is perfect for the bacteria contained to proliferate. The phosphorus and calcium salts in saliva then allow plaque to mineralise to form the hard tartar (calculus) that we are familiar with. The roughened surface of this tartar is perfect for collecting more plaque and so the condition progresses.

What does this cause?

The tartar itself is a fairly inert substance that does not necessarily cause further disease. The plaque however is the main concern due to the bacterial content. Bacterial endotoxins are released from the large spectrum of plaque bacteria. These cause break-down and thus irritation and inflammation of the gum layer surrounding the teeth. The first sign of inflammation around the teeth (periodontal disease) is a red inflamed gum over the individual teeth. As this progresses, the tissues supporting the tooth are eroded leading to eventual tooth loss.

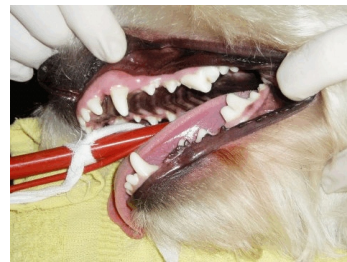
What are the causes?

The potential causal factors are numerous. They may include:

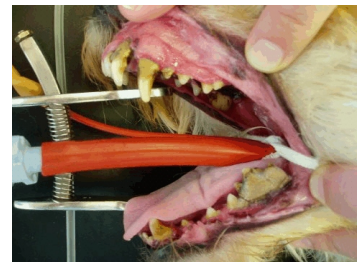
- The individual animal's genetics.
- Conformation of the mouth – small breeds or short nosed breeds (Pug, Persian etc) where the teeth may be rotated or overcrowded.
- Diet - dry diets are better than wet. Sticky diets leave debris surrounding the teeth.
- Retained temporary teeth.

How does periodontal disease affect my dog or cat?

It can affect your pet in the obvious ways such as bad breath, pain when eating, blood streaking in the saliva, or excess saliva production (drooling). However, the signs are not only limited to the mouth. The inflamed bleeding gum allows entry of bacteria into the blood stream. These can potentially deposit on tissue surfaces, ie: on heart valves etc, leading to an array of more generalised signs depending on where they may settle.



Canine healthy mouth



Canine periodontal disease

How can I control this problem?

If the process is advanced, then ideal treatment involves scaling and polishing teeth, with extraction of any teeth that are severely affected. Scaling aids removal of all tartar, and polishing removes remaining plaque and roughened surfaces that plaque adheres to.

To prevent this problem occurring on clean teeth, the ideal treatment is daily tooth brushing. The enzymatic toothpaste, which is used for pets, and brushing aids removal of plaque, and if done frequently enough will stop plaque mineralising and causing tartar. However, we appreciate this is not achievable with all pets. In these cases there are specific diets, chews or even water supplements that can aid in plaque reduction!!

Swimming the Solent

Martin Law and **Jo Langford**, two of your vets, are braving the waters of the Solent and attempting to swim to the Isle of Wight for charity. The swim was due to take place on the 18th July, but due to safety concerns it is now due to take place on the weekend of 15th/16th August 2009.

The charity in question is Champion Behaviours - this charity delivers motivational workshops to young people aged twelve to fifteen years old who are in danger of exclusion from school and society. This helps to re-engage disaffected young people and improve attendance, classroom behaviour and social skills, whilst reducing crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour in our community.

In the practice we have set up a draw to raise money with the winning prize being a month's supply of Hill's pet food for your pet. The winner of the food will be announced the week after the swim and will receive one month's supply of their chosen Hill's pet food... which will hopefully be presented by the survivors of the swim!!

Many thanks for your support!

Martin and Jo



How to Save Money on Your Small Animal Vets' Fees ...



Pet Health Plans

At Endell Veterinary Group we believe preventative healthcare is very important and by having this in place it can save a lot of money in vets' fees by picking problems up at an early stage when they will be much cheaper to treat. Our Pet Health Plans are designed to save you money on preventative healthcare such as vaccinations, flea and worm control and offer discounts on consultations, drugs and operations (a 15-24% saving), plus you spread out the cost into easy monthly payments.

Please ask about our health plans when you next visit us or telephone 0800 169 9958 for more information.

	Monthly Premium		Monthly Premium <10kg	Monthly Premium 10-20kg	Monthly Premium 21-40kg	Monthly Premium 40kg+		Monthly Premium
Kitten	£11	Puppy	£11	£12	£13	£14		
Adult Cat	£12	Adult Dog	£12	£14	£15	£18	Rabbit	£8
Older Cat	£14	Older Dog	£12	£14	£16	£18		

Discounted Clinic for Pensioners

Since the first Tuesday after Easter, the small animal department has been running a discounted clinic for pensioners between 10am and 4pm. Any clients who are pensioners themselves or any client who owns a 'pensioner' dog or cat (those ten years or older) will qualify for a 10% discount (some conditions apply) on consultations, medications, Hill's pet food and operations (15% off dental procedures) booked within one month of recommendation. £5 off urine tests and £25 off blood tests for health screening are also available. (Conditions apply.)

For more information or to book an appointment, please telephone us on 01722 333291.

★ New Opening Hours ★

Monday to Friday: 8.30am to 7pm

Saturday: 8.30am to 1pm

For emergencies outside these times, please telephone:

01722 333291



Following government medicines regulations that came into effect on 1 November 2005, we would like to advise you of the following changes:

Prescriptions are available from this practice. You may obtain Prescription Only Medicines, Category V, (POM Vs) from your veterinary surgeon or ask for a written prescription and obtain these medicines from another veterinary surgeon or a pharmacy.

Your veterinary surgeon may prescribe POM Vs only for animals under his or her care. A prescription may not be appropriate if your animal is an in-patient or immediate treatment is necessary.

You will be informed, on request, of the price of any medicine that may be prescribed for your animal.

The general policy of the Small Animal Department of this practice is to reassess an animal requiring repeat prescriptions every six months, but this may vary with individual circumstances. The standard charge for a re-examination is £20.92.

The current prices for the ten POM Vs most commonly prescribed or supplied during a typical three month period are displayed in our waiting room. Further information on the prices of medicines is available on request.

From 1 November 2008, written prescriptions are £7.20.

Repeat prescriptions are available at forty-eight hours' notice, Monday to Friday.