

Periodontal disease is a disease of the gums caused by a build up of plaque and is the most common disease that affects cats, dogs and humans and it also affects wild animals. Plaque is a mixture of bacteria and a glycoprotein matrix which forms a biofilm on the tooth. As the tooth surface is not shed this biofilm accumulates and will do so whether or not a pet is eating. Chewing and the action of the tongue, cheeks and saliva will help dislodge some of this plaque but cannot do so completely, especially at the gum line, and this is why all dentists, be they human or veterinary, advise that brushing teeth is the best way to minimise plaque accumulation.

Your veterinary surgeon or nurse has noted that your pet has signs of periodontal disease.

This is not an uncommon finding as it is known that up to 75% of pets aged three years and above will be affected by this disease. Unfortunately, it is a progressive disease and gets worse with age. This means that the longer pets live, the more cases we are likely to see. Early treatment will make your pet's mouth more comfortable and slow down progression of the disease. If treated in the early stages then it is usually possible to save the teeth.

Ongoing management of this disease following dental treatment, whether in pets or humans, is by brushing the teeth effectively. This can be difficult to achieve in pets, but our nurses run dental care clinics to help you become skilled at this.

We recommend that you become confident with brushing your pet's teeth before the dental treatment. This is because within forty-eight hours of treatment, plaque will be building up again and it usually takes longer than forty-eight hours to master effective brushing!

Certain diets and chews can aid plaque control in our pets, but these alone will not be sufficient to manage the problem. Again this is no different to advice given to us by our dentists – we are advised to brush more thoroughly rather than eat a certain diet or chew on a bone!

Please do not hesitate to contact us on 01722 333291 to discuss this further or to make an appointment with the clinic nurse.



Quick Reference Guide

Why dental treatment has been recommended for your pet

Periodontal Disease



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