



# Straight Outta The Mouths of Pets...

## Oral Wellness And Your Pet.

**I**t may seem okay to laugh off doggy breath, but it's another to recognize it as a sign of something more serious with your pet's health. Oral disease is unfortunately common in dogs and cats due to a variety of factors, but it mostly occurs because they don't receive the professional and home dental care needed for a healthy mouth and overall wellness. In recognition of Pet Dental Health Month, here are a few insights about pet oral health care and just how much of a role it plays in the health of your pet.

### Oral Health Is An Inside Job

**Gum disease can affect the internal organs**

What happens to the mouth doesn't just stay in the mouth. The bacteria that causes gum disease can travel through the bloodstream and cause problems with the heart, liver, kidneys and other organs in your pet. The major health impact to the organs may include heart disease, kidney disease and cancer.

### How Gum Disease Begins

**The process is often painful for pets**

Today's pet foods may deliver more nutrition than ever, but they also don't clean teeth like the diet of your pet's ancestors. A buildup of plaque on the teeth leads to tarter and pockets where the gums meet the teeth. These pockets are where bacteria and food gather and gum disease develops. Red, inflamed gums make it hard for pets to eat, with many hiding their pain by simply not eating at all. Add to this the tooth loss that follows and you have a very uncomfortable pet that is also at risk for serious systemic disease.

### Know The Signs of Dental Disease

**Be aware of these warning signs**

Bad breath, yellow or brown teeth, loose teeth, swollen gums, inflamed gums that bleed, and pain when eating are all symptoms of oral disease in your pet. Other signs include excessive salivation, lack of appetite and weight loss.

### Dental Care Is A Family Affair

**You brush your teeth daily, and so should your pet**

You brush and floss your teeth daily, so why should it be any different for your pet? Daily home care that includes tooth brushing, along with professional dental cleanings, can help prevent gum disease.



### Prevention Is The Best Medicine

**Regular exams and cleanings make a difference**

Regular wellness exams typically include a check of your pet's teeth and gums. Dental exams, along with regular cleanings, help to ensure your pet's oral health stays in good shape, and with daily home care gives them the best chance for a life free from oral disease and all the problems that go along with it. Start today by asking us for more information about dental care for pets.