

# Peterborough West Animal Dr. Scott Sargent

February Issue 2010



Peterborough West Animal Hospital 2605 Stewart Line, RR#3, Peterborough ON, K9J6X4

Email: [drscottsargent@bellnet.ca](mailto:drscottsargent@bellnet.ca) (705)745-4800

## February is Dental Month

**Fact:** Periodontal disease affects 95% of dogs, and is the most common disease in cats, affecting 70% of cats over the age of 5 years.

Periodontal disease affects the gums and surrounding tissues of the teeth, and can attribute to serious health problems such as kidney and heart disease. Decreasing the buildup of gingival plaque is important for the prevention of dental disease.

Some animals are genetically predisposed to developing dental disease at a young age, or having more severe dental problems.

### Signs of Periodontal Disease include:

- Bad breath (halitosis)
- Tatar buildup on teeth
- Red/swollen/bleeding gums
- Difficulty eating/chewing, dropping kibble, drooling,
- Anorexia
- Weight loss
- Inactive, less interaction with their family
- Eating small frequent meals

Our recommended **Dental Health Care Plan** includes:

- ★ An annual scheduled dental exam
- ★ A dental prophylaxis (cleaning) to remove tartar, and plaque, as well as any unhealthy teeth present in the mouth.
- ★ Regular brushing of your pets teeth, with pet approved toothpaste. (Do not use human tooth paste on your pet)
- ★ Feeding a clinically proven dental diet available through your veterinarian.
- ★ Using veterinarian approved oral health treats to aid with the reduction of plaque and tartar.

**Dental exams are quick and painless, they uncover common problems such as broken teeth, and gum disease.**

In this Issue:  
**What is Periodontal Disease?**  
**Stages of Dental Disease**  
**Dental Health Care**

### Stages of Dental Disease

**Grade 1:** Bacteria, food particles form on the tooth surface creating an invisible film of plaque. This causes bad breath and gingivitis even though the teeth appear clean.



**Grade 2:** Dental plaque hardens on teeth to form tartar. Swelling and redness along the gumline is visible.



**Grade 3:** Heavy Tartar is visible. Toxins caused by the buildup of bacteria cause more redness and swelling of the gums, as well as the beginning of bone loss.



**Grade 4:** Left untreated gingivitis can lead to infection, tooth loss, recessed gums, and bone loss.



**A toothache hurts, especially when you can't tell someone. Schedule a regular dental exam to keep your pet healthy and happy.**

