

WHAT IS A DENTAL PROCEDURE?

A dental procedure is comprehensive procedure performed under general anesthesia that allows a complete evaluation and therapeutic treatment of your pet's teeth and gums. Typically the procedure involves probing, scaling and polishing of the teeth. However, when there are instances where dental disease has progressed, more extensive treatment is performed. Once the veterinarian determines the condition of the pet's mouth and recommends the best course of treatment, the process is as follows:

OWNERS ARE ALWAYS KEPT INFORMED OF FINDINGS

- **Scaling and Probing**

1. A periodontal probe is used to check for pockets underneath the gum line and document their depth.
2. In moderate and severe dental cases, digital photographs are taken, reviewed, and stored in pet's file.
3. Tartar is removed with an ultrasonic scaler. This instrument is similar in design to those used in human dentistry. A hand scaler is used to remove tartar from crevices. Additionally, each tooth is assessed and any signs of gingivitis are noted.
4. Dental charting is an important aid to monitor progress.

- **X-Rays**

If loose, cracked teeth, or periodontal disease are found, x-rays are necessary to determine if an infection is present. Lesions (painful, erosive holes in the teeth) are more common in cats and x-rays are always necessary. These x-rays allow the doctor to assess the condition of the roots before extracting any teeth.

- **Oral Surgery/Extractions**

If x-rays and/or probing have uncovered a diseased tooth, the veterinarian will determine if an extraction is the best course of action to keep the periodontal disease under control and to spare your pet unnecessary pain.

- **Polishing, Antibacterial Solution Application**

Teeth are polished to smooth out any scratches in the enamel where decay can set in.

Gums are washed with an antibacterial solution to help delay tartar build-up, which decreases chance of future infections.

- **Pro V Seal Application (optional but highly recommended)**

To help your pet's teeth stay plaque free, a protective barrier sealant is applied (Pro V Seal). Once applied, the product leaves a thin barrier on the tooth surface that prevents plaque and bacteria from attaching to the tooth. A home care kit is highly recommended for application only once a week as a valuable preventative tool.

- **Surgical Procedures**

1. Patients are carefully monitored before, during, and after the procedure by the surgical team.
2. All patients are placed on a water circulating heating pad, and body temperature is monitored by the surgical team during the procedure and during recovery.
3. Patients are continuously monitored for cardiac rhythm, pulse, respirations, oxygen saturation rate by both the surgical team and monitoring equipment.
4. Appropriate medications will be dispensed as needed for the comfort of your pet both during their stay and for home care. These medications help hasten the healing process and aid in rapid recovery.

At the Animal Hospital of Lynnfield we are committed to provide the highest standard of care to ensure the safety and well being of your pet. While modern anesthesia is very safe, nothing in life is without some risk. Therefore our doctors will recommend the following:

1. **Pre-Anesthetic Bloodwork:**

Prior to anesthesia pre-anesthetic bloodwork is performed to detect any abnormalities that might affect your pet. This data allows the doctor to make the optimal choices for staging your pet's anesthesia.

2. **Anesthesia Intensive Support:**

The placement of an intravenous catheter allows prompt delivery of medications as needed. This process allows fluids to be administered to maintain blood pressure, hasten recovery, and maintain well-being.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT WHEN I TAKE MY PET HOME?

A happier, healthier family companion!

Most pets go home the same day as the procedure. Your pet's comfort and well being is our primary concern. The doctors and staff monitor animals through the recovery process. Generally pets resume normal activity and behavioral patterns that same day. Most young cats and dogs will be back to normal within 24 hours. Some older pets may appear groggy for up to several days. Doctors recommend you keep a watchful eye on your pet to make sure they are eating and drinking normally. Our staff is available should you have any additional questions or concerns. Offering your pet a quiet place to recuperate and lots of love will help he/she resume their normal activities as soon as possible.

Remember that prevention is important. Once your pet's mouth is clean and comfortable, you can put into practice the recommendations that our dental technicians will give you.

The next kiss from your pet will be a clean one from a pain-free mouth!

Your Pet Gladly
Welcome!

The Animal Hospital of Lynnfield

Preventative Dentistry Program



FACT:

80% of all adult pets over the age of 4 have some form of periodontal disease - the number one cause of heart, liver, kidney and lung disease. {source: The American Veterinary Dental Society}

781-334-4161
www.AnimalHospital.com

RESOURCES:

- > The American Animal Hospital Association
- > The American Veterinary Dental Society
- > American Veterinary Medical Association
- > Hill's Pet Nutrition

DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT & PREVENTION –

A FORMIDABLE TEAM

Since pets hide pain, dental disease often times goes undetected and untreated. In a perfect world, our family pets could tell us where it hurts, when it hurts and how much it hurts. This scenario is unrealistic and unattainable. However, compassionate, comprehensive and cost-effective dental care is within our reach.

Join us at the Animal Hospital of Lynnfield in our mission to continue to provide, compassionate and comprehensive care from our committed team of doctors, technicians, assistants, and client relations specialists.

- Dr. Christopher Meehl
- Dr. Kimberly Ackerman
- Dr. Brenda Bouffard
- Dr. Courtney Lewis
- Dr. Heidi Tapscott
- Dr. Sara Doggett

EARLY DETECTION

What is periodontal disease?

Periodontal disease is a painful inflammatory condition that occurs if plaque, a colorless film, that contains bacteria, is allowed to build up creating infection, destroying gums, tissue and bones that support the teeth. In advanced stages, periodontal disease is the number one cause of heart, liver, kidney and lung disease in 80 % of all adult pets over the age of four.

{The American Veterinary Dental Society}

What are the symptoms?

Many pets exhibit no obvious signs or symptoms until the disease is in its advanced stages and often times very painful. However, the list of symptoms and warning signs below offer a valuable tool in the care and treatment of your family pet. In addition, the American Veterinary College provides information on their website, www.avdc.org that will expound on the importance of early detection.

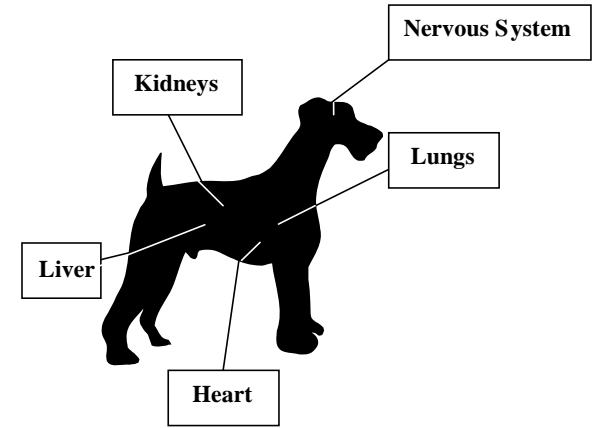
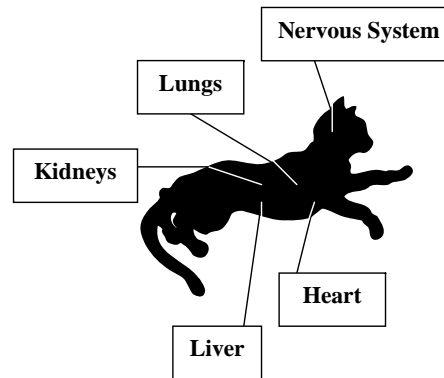
SYMPTOMS:

- Bad breath
(This is not a cosmetic problem and should not be overlooked.) Often, this is the only obvious indicator that dental disease is present.
- Loss of appetite
- Chewing on one side, dropping food, chewing less on toys
- Drooling
- Lethargy
- Red or bloody gums
- Yellow or brown discoloration (tartar) on teeth
- Tooth loss
- Dogs that begin to rub their mouths or "paw" at them

THE PATH OF DENTAL DISEASE..... YOU CAN HELP STOP IT!

If dental disease is left untreated, chronic infection, pain and tooth loss will occur over time. Some chronic diseases that are directly related to dental disease are:

- Infection of heart valves
- Urinary tract infection
- Chronic bronchitis
- Kidney infection
- Bacterial hepatitis/liver abscess
- Pneumonia



WHAT CAN I DO TO PREVENT MY FAMILY PET FROM DEVELOPING DENTAL DISEASE?

Dental disease is a progressive disease that can be controlled but not cured. Early detection is essential in providing your pet with the best prognosis and treatment. Please review the following preventative measures to assist us in our efforts to maintain healthy and happy pets.

1. Become familiar with the symptoms of dental disease (see symptoms)
2. Get your pet used to having his/her mouth handled and teeth examined. Daily brushing is ideal and allows you to familiarize yourself with any changes in your pet's mouth. Pay special attention to any changes in color and/or bad breath.
3. Ask your veterinarian for his/her recommendations including toothbrushes, dental care treats, food, rinses, wipes, sealant etc. that are particular to your pet's needs and your lifestyle.
4. Schedule a Dental Consult:
The Animal Hospital of Lynnfield performs an oral exam at each annual exam. However, if you suspect the presence of dental disease or notice any of the aforementioned symptoms, please schedule a dental consult as soon as possible. The consult is a 20-minute appointment with a dental technician, (for a nominal fee of \$29.80), that includes the following:

- External and internal oral exam
- Preliminary diagnosis and recommendations
- Complimentary Dental Care package that includes: a brochure, video, CD-Rom, and dental care product samples.
- Personalized care, treatment and prevention discussed and demonstrated
- Dental procedure explained