



paws & more



Pet Health Newsletter

dental HEALTH AWARENESS edition



How Healthy is your pet's mouth?

Dental disease is one of the most common diseases in dogs and cats, and involves the buildup of tartar causing gum and tooth irritation. If left untreated, the gums will eventually recede leading to infection and tooth loss.

We all know how sore a toothache can be, however our pets can't tell us when they are not feeling well. Pets may often suffer in silence, however there are some warning signs you can look out for.

Early signs indicating that your pet may be suffering from dental disease include foul smelling breath, excessive salivation, and reluctance to eat. Other more serious effects can include tooth loss, abscess formation and secondary infections of other organs including the heart, lungs, kidneys and liver. If you suspect that you pet has dental disease, it is important to take him/her to your Anexa FVC veterinarian for a check up.

If diagnosed with dental disease, your pet may require a dental scale under general anaesthetic. This involves scaling and polishing the teeth and possible tooth extractions. However the best cure for dental disease is prevention!

The most effective way to remove plaque from your pet's teeth is to brush them. The best way to do so is using a special pet toothbrush and toothpaste designed for use on animals. Brushing must be introduced to your pet slowly, and can begin by rubbing his/her lips and gums with your finger before introducing a finger brush or toothbrush. When the brush is first introduced, start by only brushing a few teeth at a time, and eventually work up to include all teeth. Many pets will not tolerate their teeth being brushed (especially cats), so other forms of dental prevention can be adopted.

Dental treats and chew toys can be given to dogs and cats to help encourage chewing and to prevent formation of plaque and tartar.

We also have dental diets available that use mechanical and chemical action to maintain dental health. The size, texture and shape of the kibbles provide a mild abrasive effect to gently scrub the teeth. Sodium polyphosphate traps salivary calcium so that it is unavailable for tartar formation.

If you would like advice on the best dental diet for your pet, give us a call or pop into the clinic, we're here to help.



free
Vet Nurse
Dental Check +
Goody Bag

*While stocks last
 July - August only
 One goody bag per pet seen*



Receive a
\$50
ANEXA fvc
VOUCHER
*with every pet scale and
 polish dental during
 July and August*
 Conditions apply



If you have noticed that your pet has smelly breath, isn't chewing as before, eating food slower or just generally slowing down with no obvious cause, please bring in your pet for a dental check.

Just like people, dogs and cats have bacteria that live in their mouths. However unlike people animals do not brush their teeth every day, so these bacteria produce plaque which builds up and forms a hard discolored and smelly covering on the teeth called tartar.

How do pet's teeth get infected?

The tartar gives the bacteria a place to grow and allows them to infect the gum around the teeth causing redness, pain and swelling. If the infection is left it will invade the tooth roots and may even cause the tooth to fall out. As you can imagine this is incredibly painful for the animal.

reducing tartar build up

Ask your vet for tips about the proper way to care for teeth, such as feeding dental biscuits, offering dental sticks and adding a "Healthymouth" product to the drinking water.

removing tartar is essential

Once the discolored tatar has built up, it needs to be treated at the vets, as it will not go away or improve by itself. We remove it by anaesthetizing the animal and cleaning the teeth with an ultrasonic scalar, just like human dentists use. This removes the tartar and will not only make your pet feel better, but will reduce smelly breath and decrease the risk of gum disease.

Annual dental checks are important to discuss teeth problems and decide on the best option for keeping your pets teeth healthy.



Receive a
\$50
anexa fvc
voucher
with every pet scale and polish
dental during July and August
Conditions apply



before dental



Signs of dental disease

- ? Bad breath
- ? Pawing at the mouth
- ? Difficulty eating
- ? Red or inflamed gums
- ? Browened teeth
- ? Excessive drooling
- ? Swelling under the eye

After dental



Signs of a healthy mouth

- ✓ Clean teeth, no browning
- ✓ No loose teeth
- ✓ No evidence of bleeding gums
- ✓ No evidence of swollen gums
- ✓ No excess drool



free

**Vet Nurse
Dental Check
+ Goody Bag**

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One goody bag
per pet seen



Get your pets mouth checked annually - take advantage of our Free Dental Check during July and August.



Giving your pet dental treats is one of the easiest ways to clean their teeth.



Consider brushing your pet's teeth. If daily brushing is too hard, weekly brushing will still get results

Five ways to keep Your pet's Mouth Healthy



Crunchy foods prevent less tartar build up than canned or soft foods. Consider feeding a dental specific diet



Chew toys and ropes will naturally clean a dog's teeth as they play



did you know?

75% of the health problems seen by Vets have ties to dental disease?

Most pets already have signs of dental disease by age 3!

COMMUNITY focus

Anexa FVC not only raises funds for its own Stray Animal and Wildlife fund, but works with other charities in the community.

We are proud to support the PAWs trust and their programme of work to de-sex dogs and cats who would most likely would not be de-sexed (at selected Anexa FVC clinics). Every year, many cats and dogs are euthanised unnecessarily. Cats in particular like to wander and it is very easy for them to get pregnant resulting in many more unwanted animals. Often pets are not desexed because their owners simply cannot afford the full cost of the procedure – this is the target group for PAWs (owners must produce a Gold Card or a Community Services Card to qualify and there must be funding available at the time). You can support this work by donating goods (or money) to the local Thames PAWs opportunity shop (there are also shops in Putaruru and Tokoroa), and of course by shopping at your nearest shop. Each shop is operated by an outstanding team of volunteers and the money raised goes into funding de-sexing. It is only by stopping the breeding of unwanted dogs and cats that we can stop the killing of so many unwanted companion animals in New Zealand.

As if bad breath isn't bad enough!

If your dog has persistent bad breath, then he or she may have plaque and tartar build up which is caused by bacteria in the mouth. Left unchecked, more bacteria build up and you get more bad breath and dental issues. That is why it is important to help prevent this build up. Our clinics now stock the new "Oravet Dental Hygiene Chews".

The dual-action approach of the OraVet Chew doesn't just clean teeth and freshen breath, it creates a barrier to help protect against plaque, tartar and bad breath. The chewing action works to loosen and dislodge plaque to help it break away from teeth. Then the chew forms a barrier to help protect against the bacteria that lead to plaque and tartar buildup.

So pop into your local clinic and ask about Oravet Chews. If your dog already has significant dental issues, talk to your local Anexa FVC Vet about the best treatment options.



top tip:

Don't miss a treatment!
Fleas bite and lay eggs all year round
so remember to treat your pet regularly.

Your local Vet, passionate about pets 0800 284 3838 | anexafvc.co.nz

Coromandel
P: 07 866 8556
Gordonton
P: 07 824 2103

Huntly
P: 07 828 7660
Maramarua
P: 09 232 5891

Matamata
P: 07 888 8068
Morrinsville
P: 07 889 5159

Ngaruawahia
P: 07 824 8630
Ngatea
P: 07 867 7256

Paeroa
P: 07 862 8815
Raglan
P: 07 825 8390

Rototuna
P: 07 853 0027
Te Aroha
P: 07 884 8014

Te Kauwhata
P: 07 826 3581
Thames
P: 07 868 7005



sparky is a 10 year old fox terrier dog

who presented to the clinic with a large swelling on the right hand side of his face, under his eye. Sparky was examined by our Veterinarian Paula, who very quickly discovered a horrible rotten tooth at the back of his mouth on his upper jaw (maxillary molar). Paula also noted that the tooth was painful for little Sparky, who had obviously been hiding his pain well.

Sparky was sent home on antibiotics and anti-inflammatory medication to reduce the infection and swelling (which will also provide pain relief), and was to come back the following week for a dental procedure.

The following week, Sparky returned to the clinic and was admitted for the day. The swelling on Sparky's face had significantly reduced in size and the infection seemed to be under control, so the go-ahead was given for Sparky's dental procedure.

Once safely anaesthetised, a full assessment was able to be completed on Sparky's mouth (it can be difficult to assess the back teeth on a conscious animal). On both the right and left side, Sparky's two last maxillary (upper) molars had considerable gum recession and the roots of the teeth were obviously rotted. These teeth were extracted (four in total) and the rest of the mouth was checked for any further issues. The remaining teeth looked healthy, so he was given a full clean (scale and polish).

Sparky recovered well from his anaesthetic, and later into the evening was offered a small amount of soft food as his gums would be too sensitive for hard food at this stage. Without hesitation, Sparky happily and hungrily tucked into his dinner proving he was feeling much better already!

Sparky is a great example of why it is so important that we do our utmost best to provide our pets with preventative dental care where possible, and why it is equally important to have regular check-ups for them (ideally once yearly for younger pets, and every six months for senior pets). These check-ups may pick up on early signs such as tartar build up or inflamed gums; if dealt with promptly (i.e. possibly a dental scale and polish), these mild symptoms can be reversed, resulting in a happier and healthier pet and owner.

Remember, our pet's dental health is essential for optimal wellbeing. If your pet has painful teeth or dental issues, this will prevent them from thriving, as well as reducing their overall quality of life.

