

# My pet needs a dental procedure?

## Your questions answered

**Q- What is dental disease (periodontal disease)?**

**A-** Periodontal disease is the destruction of the supporting tissues around the tooth. It is an irreversible problem and can lead to tooth loss. It is the most common condition affecting cats and dogs and 80% of animals over the age of three will be showing signs of this disease. Periodontal disease cannot be cured but can be slowed down by performing a dental procedure and good homecare.

**Q- My pet has gingivitis. What is this?**

**A-** Gingivitis is inflammation of the gums in response to bacteria. This bacteria is from the plaque on your pet's teeth. Gingivitis can be prevented by tooth brushing daily



This should never happen to your pet's mouth. This is severe periodontal disease

**Q - What does a dental procedure involve?**

**A-** The procedure will require the animal to be fully anaesthetised. The vet will then scale the teeth to remove all the tartar. Each tooth will be examined to check for any abnormalities. Some teeth may need x-raying to confirm whether they are 'normal' or not. The vet will then extract the problem teeth. Some extractions will require stitches.



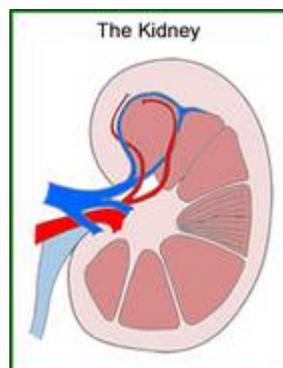
Early stages of gingivitis. The redness on the gums is not a healthy sign.

**Q - My animal is eating ok and seems fine so does he really need a dental procedure?**

**A-** Yes, animals will carry on eating even if they are in pain as it's their natural instinct.



Animals need to be anaesthetised to have a dental procedure.



Dental disease is associated with other diseases such as kidney, heart and even diabetes mellitus

**Q - How long does a dental procedure take?**

**A-** It can be difficult to assess the extent of oral problems until the animal is fully anaesthetised.

**Q - How will I know if my pet needs a dental procedure?**

Your pet may have the following-

- Smelly breath ( Halitosis)
- Drooling
- Lethargic
- Pawing at the mouth
- Not eating as much or at all

**Q-My vet says my animal will need some teeth extracting, will she be able to eat as normal?**

A- Yes, animals will even eat biscuits with no teeth at all!!



X-rays can tell us whether a tooth needs extracting or not



Special dental diets can benefit your pet. Speak to a nurse for more info.

**Q- Is my pet too old for a dental?**

A- When doing any procedure on a senior patient under anaesthetic, we take great care to ensure they are safe and stable. We can carry out pre anaesthetic blood tests and give intravenous fluids for optimum safety.

Carrying out a dental procedure on your pet can give them a new lease of life as they are no longer in oral discomfort. Please ask member of staff for more information on general anaesthesia in the senior patient if you are worried at all.

**Q - How do I brush my pets teeth?**

A- It is easier than you think and your pet will soon get used to it. Book in for a free appointment with a nurse and they can show you exactly what to do!



It is easier to brush your pet's teeth than you think! Ask a nurse to show you how.

**Q- Will my pet need a special food after the dental procedure?**

A- A dry diet is best as it won't get stuck in the extraction sites. Flaky fish or chicken is also ok to feed.

**Q – What else other than brushing can I do at home?**

A- Tooth brushing is the gold standard of homecare. Dental chews on the market do not really help against dental disease but there are some special dental diets that can benefit. Ask a nurse for more info



Toothpaste used should be for animal use. They come in poultry and fish flavours!!!

**Q - Will my pet need any more treatment after the dental procedure?**

A- Possibly yes. Periodontal disease is a progressive problem, a dental procedure forms part of the management of this condition . You can help by brushing your pet's teeth daily to slow down the disease.