

Why Do Dogs and Cats Need Dental Care?

Dogs and cats need dental care for the same reasons we do. The exact process that results in periodontal disease in humans affects our pets. Just like humans, our pets' dental problems begin with plaque, a soft sticky residue that hardens over time into tartar. Tartar build up leads to gum infections, loss of teeth, painful abscesses in the mouth and can contribute to heart and kidney disease.

Our doctors will check your pet's teeth at their annual exam to determine if a dental procedure is needed. If you notice that your pet has bad breath or is having trouble eating you need to book an appointment to bring your pet into the clinic and have a veterinarian examine your pet's mouth to determine if a dental cleaning is necessary or if there are any other issues.

When your pet needs to have a dental cleaning, general anesthesia is used so that the doctor can do a thorough exam and cleaning. We take x-rays and run blood work before the dental procedure to detect any underlying conditions.

The dental procedure includes: cleaning, scaling, polishing, sub-gingival curettage, and flushing. If the doctor has had to remove any teeth, or has observed signs of infection, antibiotics may be sent home.

Once your pet's teeth are cleaned, home care and regular dental checks are strongly recommended to maintain good oral hygiene.



What dental care do you do for your pets at home?

We at Shuswap Veterinary Clinic check your pet's teeth annually during their comprehensive exam. Call us anytime to arrange to have your pets teeth checked or to set up a dental treatment! Call us at 250-832-6069.