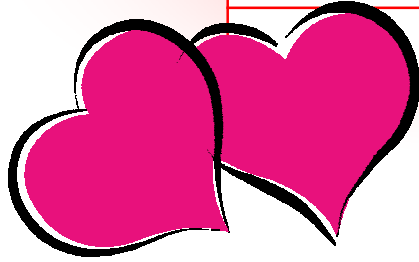


OAKS NOTES

THE OAKS VETERINARY CLINIC



How is your pet's BREATH?

Can you imagine how your teeth would look and/or feel if you didn't brush your teeth or have preventive dental care? Pet dental care is often overlooked but can seriously affect a pet's quality of life - from tooth loss to systemic disease and even organ damage or failure. That's why it's important to make sure your pet gets regular dental check-ups and that you pay attention to his or her dental care at home, too. This is a picture of a dog's mouth with periodontal disease:



During a dental cleaning or prophylaxis, plaque

and tartar are removed above and below the pet's gum line. A doctor can evaluate the overall health of the mouth including tongue, gums, lips, and teeth.

- Here's a shocking statistic: An astounding 80% of dogs and 70% of cats show signs of dental disease by age 3, according to the American Veterinary Dental Society.

Pain control is always a priority for your pet during the procedure. To ensure the comfort and

safety for your pet, the dental cleaning procedure is performed under general anesthesia.

At The Oaks Veterinary Clinic, we are equipped with state-of-the-art dental equipment, including digital x-rays, which are an invaluable tool in pet dentistry. You can be sure our doctors and staff will take the very best care of your furry companion! We will also discuss at home dental care including brushing your pet's teeth, oral rinses, and oral chews. Below is an image of the same dog's mouth after his dental cleaning/polishing:



February is National Pet Dental Health Month...

- This month The Oaks is offering \$50.00 off of a dental cleaning!
- Free Dental exam for your pets...

Please call 757-357-2324 to schedule an appointment today.

"The dog who meets with a good master is the happier of the two." -Maeterlinck



Brushing Your Pet's Teeth

Equally important to annual dental exams is home dental care, including brushing your pet's teeth every day possible.

To introduce a fearful Fido or timid Tabby to the idea of dental care, start slowly and gradually. Dip a finger into beef bouillon (for dogs) or tuna water (for cats) and gently rub along your pet's gums and teeth. The most important area to focus on is the gum line (the crevice where the gums meet the teeth), where bacteria and food mix to form plaque. Focusing on the gum line, start at the front of the mouth, then move to the back upper and lower teeth and gum areas. Once your pet is okay with a little bit of touching, gradually introduce gauze over your finger and rub the teeth and gums in a circular fashion.



When your four-legged friend can handle the gauze, try brushing with a toothbrush specially designed for pets or a very soft, ultra-sensitive tooth brush designed for people. The bristles should be held at a 45-degree angle to the tooth surface and be moved in an oval motion. Scrub in the gum line,

as this is where odor and infection begin. Gradually add special dog/cat toothpaste (flavored with meat or fish), but never use people toothpaste or baking soda, as both will upset your pet's stomach.

Use the following process to clean the outside surface of your pet's teeth:

1. Place your hand over your pet's muzzle from the top
2. Gently squeeze and push his lips on one side between the back teeth (to keep his mouth open)
3. Pull his head back gently so his mouth opens
4. Brush his teeth on the opposite side
5. Repeat this process for the other side

The entire process should only take a minute or two. If your dog or cat continues to resist, try gently wrapping him in a large bath towel with only his head sticking out. Above all, avoid overstraining and keep sessions short and positive. With plenty of praise and reassurance, your dental sessions can bring the

two of you closer —a closeness that won't be marred by the perils of dog breath.

Home care can be improved by feeding your pet an unmoistened dry pet food and offering hard biscuits after each meal. Both dry and hard biscuits produce abrasion to help keep plaque to a minimum on the crown of each tooth.

Hills Science Diet Healthy Advantage dog/cat food is clinically proven kibble technology naturally scrubs teeth clean like a toothbrush reducing plaque and tartar buildup. It helps to keep teeth and gums healthy. Healthy Advantage Dog/Cat food is sold at The Oaks. Stop by and pick up a bag today!

Pet owners are encouraged to examine their pet's teeth for signs of periodontal disease, such as brownish colored teeth, swollen, red, or bleeding gums; persistent bad breath; loose teeth or loss of teeth, pus between the gums and teeth, broken teeth and any unusual growth in the mouth. Reluctance to eat, play with chew toys, or drink cold water are warning signs of periodontal or gum disease. Consult your veterinarian if you notice any of these signs in your pet. AAHA

National Dog Biscuit Day

February 23rd



We have healthy dog biscuits for your pet!

Join our Referral Club

Refer The Oaks Veterinary Clinic to your friends, co-workers and neighbors.

When they bring their pet in for an exam you can earn a \$10.00 credit on your account. Just have them give us your name as the person who referred them.



Mark your calendar... Joey Mitchell and friends will prepare a delicious chicken barbecue dinner on March 10, 2012 from 4:00-7:00 pm at the Crocker Brothers Hunt Club at Central Hill on Route 637. The cost for this meal is \$8.00. Proceeds will be donated to the "Counting on a Cure" Relay For Life team to benefit the American Cancer Society. Tickets will also be available for a chance to win a gift card tree or a gift basket. Come early and bring a friend. Take out orders will be available.