HEALTHY MOUTH, HEALTHY PET

Why Dental Care is Critical for Your Dog & Cat

The Most Common Condition

Did you know that **Periodontal Disease** is the number one health issue affecting our pets? It often goes unnoticed by owners because pets rarely show obvious signs of dental pain.

> Fact: Up to **70-80% of dogs and cats** have early evidence of periodontal disease by the time they are just **3 years old**.



Reflecting the prevalence range in young pets

The Path of Destruction

Periodontal disease isn't just "dirty teeth." It is a progressive infection that destroys the structures supporting the tooth.

1. Plaque

A soft film of bacteria forms on the teeth daily. It can be brushed off easily.

2. Tartar

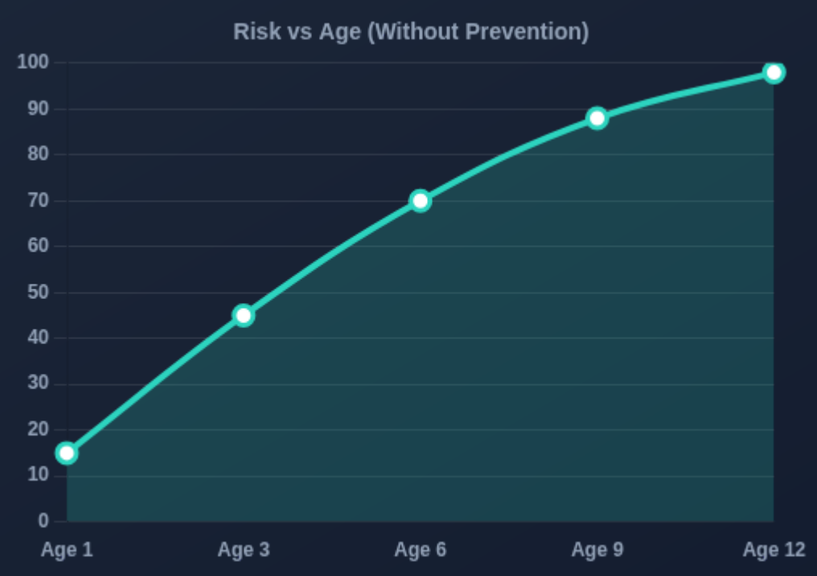
If not removed, plaque hardens into calculus (tartar). This requires professional scaling to remove.

3. Damage

Bacteria creeps **below the gumline**, destroying bone and connective tissue. This causes pain and tooth loss.

More Than Just a Mouth Problem

The mouth is the gateway to the body. Chronic infection in the gums allows bacteria to enter the bloodstream, traveling to vital organs.



The Systemic Connection

INFECTED GUMS

BACTERIA ENTER BLOODSTREAM

- Heart
- Liver
- Kidney

Prevention: The Gold Standard

The key to management is stopping plaque before it becomes tartar.

Home Hygiene

Daily brushing is the gold standard of oral hygiene. It can reduce the frequency or even eliminate the need for periodic dental cleanings.

Don't worry if you can't do it every day—**brushing even several times a week** can still be highly effective.

The Role of Chewing

Other activities that aid in maintaining oral health include **chewing**. Dental chews and specific diets provide mechanical scraping to help keep teeth clean.

> 💡 **TIP:**
> Look for the **VOHC Seal** on products to ensure they are scientifically proven to reduce plaque and are **safe for dogs and cats to chew**.

Professional Treatment

Professional intervention is necessary to address disease below the gumline:

1. **Routine Exams**
   Catch early signs of gingivitis before bone loss occurs.
2. **Comprehensive Cleanings**
   Scaling and polishing under anesthesia for safety and thoroughness.
3. **Digital Radiographs**
   Essential to identify bone loss and abscesses hidden beneath the gums.