



# OLD REYNELLA VET CLINIC REPORTER

BRINGING YOU THE LATEST INFORMATION FOR YOUR PETS HEALTH!

## DENTAL CARE—VITAL FOR YOUR PET!

**Oral disease is the most frequently diagnosed health problem in pets!**

Oral disease begins with a buildup of bacteria in a pet's mouth. Bacteria combined with saliva and food debris between the tooth and gum can cause plaque formulations that accumulate on the tooth. Bacteria then grow in the plaque and calcium salts deposited, and turns into tartar. Bacterial plaque is the main cause for the development of periodontal disease.



Without proper prevention and treatment, plaque and tartar buildup leads to periodontal disease and eventually affects the tissues and structures supporting the teeth. Left untreated, periodontal disease can cause oral pain, tooth loss and pose a serious health risk to your pet.

**Did you know periodontal disease can lead to other health problems?**

Periodontal disease causes inflammation of the gums. The inflammation and infection involved in periodontal disease may damage other organs such as the heart, liver and kidneys, or lead to other health problems.

**What are the causes of dental disease?**

Dental disease is an unfortunate and inevitable part of pet ownership; however there are certain factors which can contribute to the development of plaque and tartar much earlier in life. Factors such as: poor quality diets, containing a high volume of wet or canned foods; breed predisposition, (smaller dogs and cats in particular) or dogs with shortened muzzles; fractured teeth and poor jaw alignment.

**How can I tell if my dog or cat has dental disease?**

If your pet will allow it, open its mouth and look inside, look for the warning signs of dental disease; bad breath, red or swollen gums, brown crust of plaque around teeth and pain or bleeding when you touch the gums or teeth. Alternatively, it is a good idea to schedule regular check-ups with your vet.

**Home Dental Care**

A complete home dental care will often involve brushing as well as a special food that helps to care for your pets teeth while they eat. Even if you are unable to brush your pet's teeth everyday, a dental care diet will help to reduce plaque buildup, gingivitis and also help to freshen your pet's breath.



Feline teeth before dental



Canine teeth before dental

**HILLS PRESCRIPTION DIET T/D** is the most recommended dental care product by vets as it has been specially formulated to clean pet's teeth as they eat. The kibbles are designed to remove plaque and tartar from the teeth as your pet bites into them. It also contains a superior antioxidant formula which has been shown to help reduce the progression of dental disease. You will notice a difference in a few weeks. Prescription diet t/d is a complete food that contains all the nutrients your pet needs for a healthy, balanced diet. It should be fed long term, either on its own (for maximum benefit) or alongside your pets regular food to maintain dental health.

**GREENIES DENTAL CHEWS** are treats for both dogs and cats ideally given daily. They are clinically proven to help keep teeth cleaner and minimise the build up of plaque and tartar.

**PLAQUE-OFF** is an ideal product for fussy pets that will not eat or chew anything that will assist in the care of their teeth and gums. It is a powder that is added to meals, and assists in preventing the build up of plaque and tartar on their teeth. Available in formulations for both dogs and cats, it is given in such small amounts that even the fussiest of pets won't notice the addition of the product to their dinner!

**BOOK IN FOR A FREE DENTAL CHECK FOR YOUR PET ANYTIME! SIMPLY PHONE THE CLINIC TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT.**

**How to Brush Your Pet's Teeth**

The absolute gold standard of dental care is to brush your pets teeth for two to five minutes every day! It can be a tricky process, but introduced correctly most pets will get used to having their teeth cleaned regularly.

Start by beginning gradually. Avoid over-restraining them and keep brushing sessions short and positive. A small dog or cat can be held in your lap. Praise and reassure your pet throughout the process.

At first, dip a finger into beef broth for dogs, or tuna water for cats. Rub the soaked finger gently over your pet's mouth and teeth. You don't need to try and open their jaws, just concentrate on the outside of the teeth. Make the initial sessions short and positive.

Once your pet is used to this, introduce gauze over the finger and gently scrub the teeth in a circular motion.

Finally, you can introduce either an ultra-soft brush designed for people or a special finger-brush designed for pets. Special pet toothbrushes and pastes are available from your veterinarian.

Please do not use human toothpaste as it may make your pet sick!

