

## Stages of Periodontal Disease

### Healthy Teeth



Home dental care is needed to maintain these healthy teeth and gums. Brushing your pet's teeth regularly is ideal. There are also products available to help make home dental care easier.

### Stage 1 - Mild Calculus



The margin of attached gum is inflamed and swollen. Plaque covers the teeth. Home dental care is needed. If there is no improvement, dental cleaning is needed within the next year to remove plaque buildup which will develop into calculus.

### Stage 2 - Moderate Calculus



The entire gum is inflamed and swollen. The mouth is painful and odor is noticeable. Dental cleaning to remove the calculus is needed. A calculus control diet and home dental care are needed afterward to slow the reformation of calculus.

### Stage 3 - Severe Calculus and Gingivitis



The gums are cherry red and bleeding. They are damaged by infection and calculus. A sore mouth and bad breath are evident. Dental cleaning to remove calculus is needed immediately. A calculus control diet and home dental care are needed afterward to prevent reoccurrence.

### Stage 4 - Periodontal Disease



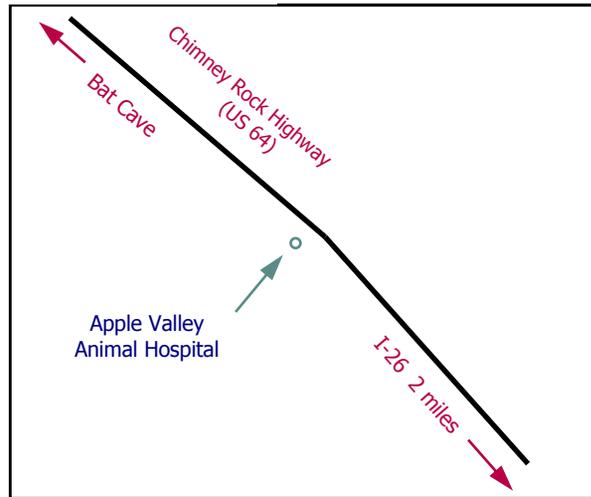
Chronic inflammation is destroying the gums, teeth and bone. Bacteria are spreading through the body via the blood stream and may damage the kidneys, liver and heart. Dental cleaning to remove calculus is needed immediately. A calculus control diet and home dental care are needed afterward to prevent reoccurrence.

Pet: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Apple Valley Animal Hospital offers a free dental examination six months after each dental cleaning we perform.

## Directions...



## Apple Valley Animal Hospital

### YOUR OTHER FAMILY DOCTOR

3015 Chimney Rock Road  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Phone: (828) 685-1650

Fax: (828) 685-9774

Email: [info@AVvets.com](mailto:info@AVvets.com)

Website: [www.AVvets.com](http://www.AVvets.com)



### Hours of operation:

Monday through Friday 7:30a to 5:30p

Saturday 8:00a to 1:00p

Call 685-1650 to schedule appointments.

# Dental Healthcare Basics



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# Veterinary Dentistry?

Imagine that you haven't brushed your teeth in months. Ugh... But the same natural processes that cause us to need routine dental care are at work in our pets too. Our doctors see tartar buildup, periodontal diseases and tooth damage every day. They are the most common and most preventable medical conditions we see. These conditions cause pain, oral infections and a decline in general health. Studies show these bacterial infections invade the bloodstream through affected gums and cause liver, kidney and heart disease. The good news is that proper periodontal care adds an average of two years to a pet's life.

Our veterinarians oversee each dental procedure performed. Our Certified Veterinary Technicians have received additional dental training and are qualified by the American Society of Veterinary Dental Technicians. The ASVDT is internationally recognized as a leader in veterinary dental standards and training.



Dr. Jennifer McKee performs a full mouth exam prior to cleaning. Veterinary clinical studies show proper periodontal care adds an average of two years to a dog or cat's life.



An adult canine tooth before cleaning. Bright red at the gum line indicates periodontal disease.

The same tooth after dental cleaning. Without the tartar, the gum will have a chance to heal.

Although we perform hundreds of dental cleanings each year, we never consider any anesthesia procedure as routine. During the cleaning your pet will be constantly monitored by the technician and a computer system which continually reads your pet's heartbeat and respiration rates, sounding an alert if there are any abnormal variations.

## About the procedure:

Our doctor will perform a pre-anesthesia exam to look for any indication that anesthesia may be unsafe for your pet. All dental patients will have pre-anesthesia blood work to further identify potential problems and help select the safest anesthesia for your pet. After anesthesia is induced and a tracheal breathing tube is placed. This tube administers oxygen mixed with anesthetic gas and protects from the inhalation of bacteria laden plaque during the



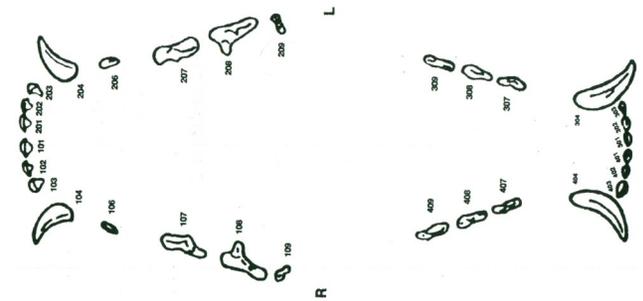
procedure. Your pet will be placed on a warming blanket to help maintain optimal body temperature. At this time an examination of all teeth, gum and tongue surfaces is performed and the doctor will decide if any teeth need special treatment or extraction. We make every effort to save teeth whenever possible. Next, the teeth are ultrasonically cleaned (known as scaling). This is the same technology used by many human dentists. After scaling, the teeth are polished to remove microscopic scratches caused by chewing. If left, these scratches would provide a foothold for tartar and speed its re-formation. After polishing, a final oral examination is performed and your pet is monitored during its recovery from anesthesia. The total time of the procedure is usually 35 to 45 minutes.



In this severe case of periodontal disease, the tartar is composed of salivary mineralization and food particles. Bacteria grows quickly in this environment and reaches the bloodstream through the inflamed gum line. This condition causes pain and a general decline in the pet's general health. This bacteria surge can cause kidney and liver disease.

## What To Watch For:

- Bad breath - Changes in chewing habits
- Subdued behavior - Redness at the gum line
- Excessive drooling - Tartar buildup on the teeth
- Pawing at the mouth - Blood on chew toys
- Pain when eating (dropping food or pacing around the bowl)



## Prevention Is Key:

All pets will have tartar buildup over time. Daily brushing is the best form of preventive dental care for your pet. Just as in humans, brushing will remove plaque before it can firmly attach to the tooth surface and mineralize to become tartar. Other preventive options are OraVet, a home applied gel which helps prevent plaque from attaching, dental diets, treats and chew toys designed to help scrub the teeth.