

Blue Ravine News

YOUR PET'S HEALTH IS OUR CONCERN

Volume 17 Issue 1

February 2019

Staff

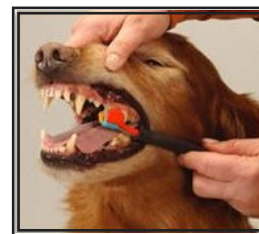
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 Michelle Rivera, DVM
 Cristina Finocchio, DVM
 Lori Siemens, DVM
 Independent Cardiologist
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Protect Your Pet's Pearly Whites

Twenty-eight: That's the number of teeth in your puppy's mouth, and each of these teeth is vitally important to your puppy's daily activities and overall health. As with your own teeth, neglected puppy teeth can collect plaque and tartar that can lead to periodontal disease and even tooth loss—a fact that becomes even more important when those 28 puppy teeth are replaced with 42 permanent adult teeth. But if you start training your new pet now, you can teach him to tolerate (and even like) tooth brushing as a puppy and as an adult. Kittens have 26 teeth, and grow to have 30 teeth as adult cats. Both cats and dogs need dental care.

Brush up on your toothbrush options: You have lots of options when it comes to choosing a toothbrush for your pet—from brushes that look like your own toothbrush (make sure you can tell the difference!) to a soft, rubbery brush that fits over your finger. Choose a brush made specifically for pets that can safely and comfortably fit in their mouth. Ask your veterinary team to help you pick the best brush for the job.

Don't use the force: Teach your pet that his toothbrush is super cool and that when it comes out, great things happen (like treats!). Slowly introduce the brush into your pet's mouth. As long as your pet is still comfortable, move forward. But if your pet withdraws from your touch, go back to the last step where he was happy. Never use force—it will teach your pet to hate the toothbrush. It's very unlikely that you'll brush all the teeth on the first try. Patiently move up to longer brushing periods over time, and keep it positive with encouragement and rewards as he improves. The goal is to brush daily because the plaque can harden into tartar in as fast as 36 hours. Brush it off every 24 hours to make the most impact.



Pick a paste: You can also choose a pet toothpaste. (Don't use ones meant for people!) These products can help make the experience fun for your pet because they come in different flavors, like chicken and peanut butter. Cats can even have tuna flavor. One last tip ... If you keep the toothbrush in a drawer or container, store other goodies there too so your pet can learn that opening that drawer always means good things. Then, the toothbrush becomes just another one of the fun things you do together. Dental health is a fundamental part of your furry best friend's future.

Make it a routine: Our pets love to know what comes next. They look forward to the next interaction with you. Plan their teeth brushing at the same time each day to make it a habit!

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February—Dental Health Month

It's February!

Did you know that 70% of cats and dogs over the age 4 have dental disease? Pet Periodontal disease can lead to pain, bad breath, tooth loss and higher risk of heart and kidney disease.

Your pet's teeth and gums should be checked at least once a year by your veterinarian to check for early signs of a problem and to keep your pet's mouth healthy.

What is veterinary dentistry, and who should perform it?

Veterinary dentistry includes the cleaning, adjustment, extraction, or repair of your pet's teeth and all other aspects of oral health care. These procedures should be performed by a veterinarian or a board-certified veterinary dentist. Registered Veterinary Technicians are allowed to perform certain dental procedures under the supervision of a veterinarian.

The process begins with an oral exam of your pet's mouth by a veterinarian. Radiographs (x-rays) may be needed to evaluate the health of the jaw and the tooth roots below the gumline. Dental cleaning includes scaling (to remove dental plaque and tartar) and polishing, similar to the process used on your own teeth during your regular dental cleanings.

Have your pet's teeth checked sooner than one year if you observe any of the following problems:

- bad breath
- broken or loose teeth
- extra teeth or retained baby teeth
- teeth that are discolored or covered in tartar
- abnormal chewing, drooling, or dropping food from the mouth
- reduced appetite or refusal to eat
- pain in or around the mouth
- bleeding from the mouth
- swelling in the areas surrounding the mouth

Some pets become irritable when they have dental problems, and any changes in your pet's behavior should prompt a visit to your veterinarian. Always be careful when evaluating your pet's mouth, because a painful animal may bite.

Causes of pet dental problems

Although cavities are less common in pets than in people, they can have many of the same dental problems that people can develop:

- broken teeth and roots
- periodontal disease
- abscesses or infected teeth
- cysts or tumors in the mouth
- malocclusion, or misalignment of the teeth and bite
- broken (fractured) jaw
- palate defects (such as cleft palate)

Periodontal disease is the most common dental condition in dogs and cats – by the time your pet is 3 years old, he or she will very likely have some early evidence of periodontal disease, which will worsen as your pet grows older if effective preventive measures aren't taken. Early detection and treatment are critical, because advanced periodontal disease can cause severe problems and pain for your pet. Periodontal disease doesn't just affect your pet's mouth. Other health problems found in association with periodontal disease include kidney, liver, and heart muscle changes.

It starts with plaque that hardens into tartar. Tartar above the gumline can often easily be seen and removed, but plaque and tartar below the gumline is damaging and sets the stage for infection and damage to the jawbone and the tissues that connect the tooth to the jaw bone. Periodontal disease is graded on a scale of 0 (normal) to 4 (severe).

Why does dentistry require anesthesia?

When you go to the dentist, you know that what's being done is meant to help you and keep your mouth healthy. Your dentist uses techniques to minimize pain and discomfort and can ask you how you are feeling, so you accept the procedures and do your best to keep still. Your pet does not understand the benefit of dental procedures, and he or she reacts by moving, trying to escape, or even biting.

Anesthesia makes it possible to perform the dental procedures with less stress and pain for your pet. In addition, anesthesia allows for a better cleaning because your pet is not moving around and risking injury from the dental equipment. If radiographs (x-rays) are needed, your pet needs to be very still in order to get good images, and this is unlikely without heavy sedation or anesthesia.

Although anesthesia will always have risks, it's safer now than ever and continues to improve so that the risks are very low and are far outweighed by the benefits. Pets can go home the same day of the procedure, although they might seem a little groggy for the rest of the day.

»»»»»»»»»» NATIONAL «««««««««« PET DENTAL HEALTH MONTH



Vetsource Home Delivery - Food



If you haven't availed yourself of the service of having pet food shipped to your door, you are missing a real convenience! Here is how to do that on Blue Ravine's website:

- 1) Visit our website at blueravineanimalhospital.com and click on the "online store" button at the top of the screen.
- 2) Search for items and/or select which item(s)* you would like for your pet.
- 3) When checking out, you will be prompted to create an account. Upon completion, information will be sent to our veterinary hospital for approval of your pet's item(s).

Vetsource carries prescription and non-prescription foods and supplies from the following vendors:



- Hills
- Royal Canin
- Purina
- Oravet



Shipping is free. Please allow 3-5 business days for delivery, depending on product availability. (Sorry—unable to deliver pet food to Alaska or Hawaii.)

- Hills Autoship Promo - 20% off on first autoship order.
- Royal Canin Autoship Promo - 15% off on all autoship orders.
- Purina Autoship Promo - 30% off on first autoship order.



*All refunds are covered by Vetsource, regardless of reason.

Additional Blue Ravine Animal Hospital Online Resources:

- 1) **Petly**—www.petly.com. Access information about your pet's health and vaccine records, receive text and email appointment reminders.
- 2) **Facebook**—www.Facebook.com/blueravinehospital. Important product information can be found here as well as information on product recalls, fun facts and pet photos.
- 3) **Website**—www.blueravineanimalhospital.com. See emergency contacts, pet sitters, forms, and meet our staff.



1770 Prairie City Road
Folsom, CA 95630
Phone: 916 984-0990
Fax: 916 984-6510



BLUE RAVINE OFFICE HOURS

Office hours: Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 8:00 pm; Saturday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sunday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
For emergencies outside regular office hours, please call MarQueen Pet Emergency & Specialty, 916 757-6600, or Sacramento Veterinary Referral Center, 916-362-3111.

www.blueravineanimalhospital.com

Pet Dental Health Month

Receive \$50 Off a
Professional Dental Cleaning
(Limit: one [1] per family)

BLUE RAVINE ANIMAL HOSPITAL
1770 Prairie City Rd. in Folsom, CA 95630
916-984-0990



In honor of National Pet Dental Month, we will be offering a \$50 discount as well as a dental care package to go home when your pet has their dental recheck 2 weeks later.

Let's work together to keep your pet's smile healthy. Call to schedule your pet's dental cleaning today!

Coupon expires March 31, 2019