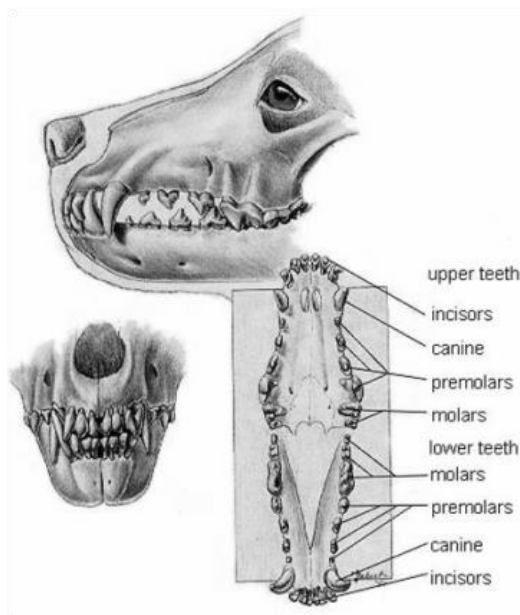


Post-Op Dentistry Handout

Thank you for choosing Avonhead Vets to complete a dental procedure on your beloved dog – we can assure you, we have taken every precaution to ensure they have received the best care and treatment, while they have been with us today 😊.



Periodontal disease starts when plaque (a bacterial film) coats the tooth. Plaque hardens (calcifies) into tartar, a thick yellow or brown layer on the teeth. Tartar can irritate the gums, creating an environment where bacteria thrive. As the disease progresses, the gums become tender, red, and swollen and the bacteria continue to multiply. Eventually, the inflamed gums pull away from the teeth, creating pockets that trap more bacteria and food particles. The gums bleed, the roots of the teeth may become exposed, teeth may become loose, and your pet may feel pain when eating. If the bacteria enter the bloodstream, they can create problems for organs such as the heart, liver, and kidneys.

What happens during the dental procedure?

During a dental cleaning, plaque and tartar are removed from your dog's teeth and the health of the entire mouth (tongue, gums, lips, and teeth) is assessed. A thorough dental cleaning can be accomplished only while the dog is under general anaesthesia. Anaesthesia keeps your dog free of pain during the dental procedure and allows us to fully inspect the teeth and remove tartar from under the gums.

A dental procedure with us may include, but not limited to: removal of visible plaque and tartar from the teeth, elimination of plaque and tartar from under the gum line, probing of dental sockets to assess dental disease, polishing to smooth enamel scratches that may harbour bacteria, dental radiographs (x-rays) to evaluate problems below the gum line, removal or repair of fractured or infected teeth and inspection of the lips, tongue, and entire mouth for growths, wounds, or other problems.

Periodontal disease is not reversible, but diligent at-home dental care can help slow down the progression.

What can you do to keep your dog's teeth clean?

Once a dental cleaning has been performed, you can take a number of steps at home to keep your dog's teeth clean and lengthen the intervals between dental cleanings:

- Just as in people, daily brushing can help remove food particles from between your dog's teeth. You can use a child's toothbrush or purchase a finger brush from us. Human toothpastes should be avoided because they contain ingredients that should not be swallowed by your pet. Please discuss products we have available with our friendly staff.

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- Several dental diets and treats can also help keep plaque and tartar to a minimum. The diets tend to have larger kibbles to provide abrasive action against the tooth surface when chewed, or they may contain
- ingredients that help prevent tartar mineralization. We have provided samples of dental diets (Hills & Royal Canin) and dental chews.
- MaxiGuard Oral Cleaning Oral is designed for large breed dogs and MaxiGuard OraZn is designed for small breed dogs and cats. The unique zinc formulation is very effective in helping reduction in gingival (gum) inflammation, reducing the disposition of plaque and neutralising offensive mouth odours. A great product for maintaining oral health after a dental procedure. Mention this handout to receive a 10% discount off a MaxiGard product.

Tips & Tricks for Teeth Brushing

One of the best ways to help prevent periodontal disease is to brush your dog's teeth daily, or at least multiple times a week.

What You'll Need:

- Baby toothbrush or pet toothbrush that is an appropriate size for your dog
- Pet toothpaste
- Treat or other reward your dog really likes

Note: Do not use toothpaste for people or baking soda to brush your dog's teeth. Human toothpaste is made with ingredients that can cause stomach upset if swallowed (e.g., detergents, fluoride). Dog toothpaste comes in different flavours (e.g., poultry, malt). The more your dog likes the toothpaste, the easier it will be to train him or her to accept brushing.

Toothbrushing should be a bonding experience that is constantly reinforced with praise and rewards. Be very patient—teaching your dog to accept toothbrushing may take weeks. Make toothbrushing enjoyable for your dog by rewarding him or her immediately after each session.

You only need to brush the outside of your dog's teeth—the side facing the cheek. Only do as much at a time as your dog allows. You may not be able to do the whole mouth at first.

If you are ever worried about being bitten, stop. Ask us about how best to care for your dog's teeth. Start by letting your dog get used to the toothbrush and toothpaste. Put them out and let your dog sniff them. You can let your dog taste the toothpaste to see if they like it.

Also, get your dog used to you touching his or her mouth. Lift his or her lips, and slowly and gently rub your dog's teeth and gums with your finger. When your dog is comfortable with you touching their mouth and is familiar with the toothbrush and toothpaste, gradually switch to putting the toothpaste on your finger, and then to putting

the toothpaste on the toothbrush.

At first, let your dog lick the paste off the brush to get used to having the brush in his or her mouth. If your dog won't tolerate a toothbrush, a small piece of washcloth can be used. Place a small amount of toothpaste on the washcloth and rub it over the outside surfaces of your dog's teeth.

Brush your dog's teeth along the gum line. Work quickly—you don't need to scrub. Work up to at least 30 seconds of brushing for each side of the mouth every other day. If you notice any problems as you brush, like red or bleeding gums or bad breath, please contact us. The earlier problems are found, the easier they may be to treat.



We hope they have a smooth recovery and get well soon!
 WARMEST WISHES, THE TEAM AT AVONHEAD VETERINARY CLINIC

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