



Pets Have Teeth Too!

# Dental Report Card

Date: April 18, 2012

Doctor: Dr. Amy Edwards

Patient: Ashley

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**When was the last time you looked in your pet's mouth?** Pets often have signs of dental disease with painful gingivitis, fractured teeth or severe tooth root abscesses without obvious signs to the owner. Proper dental care can potentially add years of life and happiness to your pet.



## NICE JOB!

No signs of plaque or tartar. The gums are pink and healthy. The teeth have no gross abnormalities. Brushing your dog's teeth **daily** is ideal.

Home dental care is needed to maintain these healthy teeth and gums. If you are already performing daily home dental care, you're doing a great job!



**DESIGN NOTES:** You can edit any elements to meet your unique practice requirements and, if desired, include your own practice photos.



## STAGE 1 – Mild gingivitis: (reversible stage)

The margin of attached gum is inflamed and swollen. Plaque can be seen on the teeth.

Home dental care is needed. A teeth cleaning is **needed within three months** to remove current plaque and tartar accumulation.



## STAGE 2 – Moderate gingivitis: (reversible)

The entire gum is inflamed and swollen. The mouth is painful and odor is noticeable; tooth roots have lost up to 25% of their attachment. Bacteria begin to impact other body organs.

A teeth cleaning to remove tartar is **needed within the next month**. Home dental care is needed to prevent progression to severe or end stage disease.



## STAGE 3 – Severe gingivitis: (potentially reversible stage)

The gums are cherry red and bleeding, damaged by infection and calculus. A sore mouth and bad breath are evident. Heart valves and kidneys are exposed to bacteria & may be experiencing inflammation & damage.

A teeth cleaning to remove tartar is needed **immediately** without delay. Some teeth may need to be extracted. Home dental care is desperately needed to prevent further pain, tooth loss, and organ infection.



## STAGE 4 – (irreversible stage) End stage periodontal disease:

Chronic infection is destroying the gums, teeth and bone. Many teeth are loose. Bacteria are spreading through the body and heart, liver and kidneys are compromised. Pain is constant.

A teeth cleaning to remove tartar is needed **immediately** without delay. Some teeth will need to be extracted. Home dental care is desperately needed to prolong your dog's life expectancy.



dental photos courtesy of: Dr. Jan Bellows



**! Feline Neck Lesion Present:** There is a cavity-like lesion in at least one tooth. This "hole" will get larger and larger until the tooth breaks, causing more and more pain. This disease process cannot be medically stopped. **Extraction of the tooth needs to be scheduled to stop your cat's pain.** Neck lesions are not always detected until your cat is under anesthesia. They may be present at any dental stage.

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## Bad breath is not normal – it's a sign of disease!



After your pet eats a meal, plaque begins to accumulate on the teeth within four hours. Plaque – a slimy biofilm – consists of bacteria, saliva, and food particles. If plaque is not removed with

regular home dental care, the bacteria will mineralize and form a yellow-brown substance seen on the teeth called tartar.

**When tartar is visible, the damage has already started.** Bacteria present in tartar secrete enzymes that cause damage to the teeth, gums, and jaw bones. Painful conditions such as gingivitis and periodontal disease can become irreversible without treatment and result in tooth loss. To prevent or treat these conditions the teeth must be evaluated and cleaned by a veterinary professional. Our goal is to prevent tartar build up, inflamed gums, and tooth loss by instructing owners about proper oral home care and regular oral veterinary exams.

## Why is dental care so important to you and your pet?

Dental disease is the most common illness encountered in veterinary medicine and affects 8 out of 10 pets. It is also the most preventable disease with proper home care. Preventive dental care including tooth brushing, dental chews, prescription dental diets, and regular veterinary examinations can improve your pet's quality and length of life. Unfortunately, many pets go untreated and suffer the consequences of infection, pain, and decreased life span.

**Pets often go years with painful gingivitis, periodontal disease, fractured teeth, or tooth root abscesses without the owner even noticing.**

Dental disease puts tremendous stress on your pet's organs and can lead to infections in the liver, lungs, kidneys, and heart. Please ask us about the best methods of home dental care for your pet.

## What is involved in a teeth cleaning and oral surgery procedure at Shi

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- 1. Pre-anesthetic Bloodwork:** This can detect any abnormalities in organ function to tailor our anesthetic and pain drug protocol accordingly. Sometimes we find abnormalities that necessitate delaying the procedure until other health concerns are addressed.
- 2. Intravenous (IV) Catheter and Fluid Therapy:** An IV catheter allows us to give injectable drugs for immediate effect and in cases of emergencies. IV fluids help us maintain proper body temperature and blood pressure which is vital for protecting the internal organs. Both the catheter and fluids dramatically increase the safety of the anesthesia.
- 3. Anesthesia and Anesthetic Monitoring:** During an anesthetic procedure, your pet is intubated with a breathing tube to provide oxygen and inhalant anesthesia gas to allow quick recovery. Additionally, your pet's heart rate, heart rhythm, respiratory rate, blood pressure, blood oxygen level, EKG, and temperature are monitored **electronically and by a veterinary technician** continuously throughout the procedure.
- 4. Complete Oral Exam:** The veterinarian identifies any gingival pockets, masses, or diseased teeth in the mouth and prepares a chart to be kept in the pet's medical record.
- 5. Dental Radiographs (X-rays):** Many dental disease conditions cannot be properly diagnosed or treated without taking radiographs of the tooth roots. Having dental radiographs allows us to make informed decisions about tooth treatment options.
- 6. Dental Scaling:** Tartar and plaque below the gum line causes the most destruction to oral tissues. Our ultrasonic scaler is designed to clean tartar and plaque from the teeth and more importantly below the gum line. This tartar removal technique is similarly employed by human dentists.
- 7. Dental Polishing and Fluoride Treatment:** Polish provides a smooth tooth surface and helps delay the reattachment of plaque. Fluoride reduces tooth sensitivity and strengthens the tooth surface.
- 8. Extractions (Oral Surgery):** Sometimes teeth are so diseased, they must be removed to eliminate bacterial infection. We use a state of the art high-speed, water-cooled drill (similar to human dentistry) to extract large or multi-rooted teeth. Extractions make it necessary to use antibiotics during surgery and at home.
- 9. Pain Management:** Our philosophy is to provide each patient with multi-modal pain relief. As needed, patients may receive local anesthetic blocks, injectable pain medications, and oral medications to go home for pain control.

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