

# Good dental care



Proper pet dental care will greatly benefit your cat and dog so that it maintains a long, comfortable and healthy life.

Pets of all ages, even as young as 12 months, can show signs of dental disease, including bad breath (halitosis), inflamed gums (gingivitis), dental plaque and calculus, and they can even lose teeth.

Pets suffering from dental disease can demonstrate a reluctance to be handled around the head, discomfort when chewing, inappetence, general malaise and lethargy, and even septicaemia in severe cases, which could affect other body systems.

Small breeds of dogs are more likely to develop dental disease due to overcrowding of their teeth and often are also reluctant to eat chewy foods.

In a pet's mouth, bacteria combine with saliva and food particles at the junction of the teeth and gums to form plaque. This plaque can grow on the tooth and become mineralised over time to form a concrete-like tartar. If not removed, the tartar will allow pockets of pus to form along the gum line, causing the tooth to separate from the gum and then deeper infection and gingivitis. This will lead to chronic mouth pain and tooth loss as the bone around the teeth degenerates.

So, it is really important to maintain good oral hygiene to avoid these significant dental problems that will affect your pet's quality of life.

## Opening hours & contact details

We are here to provide professional and caring attention for your pet. *Please note that consultations are by appointment.*

### Charlestown Animal Hospital: (02) 4943 6066

6 Smith Street, Charlestown  
Just off the Highway, between Ridley Street and Ida Street.

#### Surgery Hours

|           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| Mon-Fri:  | 8.30am-6.00pm |
| Saturday: | 8.30am-1.00pm |

### Lake Veterinary Hospital Belmont: (02) 4945 9677

18 Maude Street, Belmont  
Turn off the Highway at Aldi, we are located opposite the Baptist Church.

#### Surgery Hours

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Mon-Fri:  | 8.30am-6.00pm  |
| Saturday: | 8.30am-12.00pm |

### Swansea Veterinary Surgery: (02) 4971 4062

130 Pacific Highway, Swansea  
Easy parking outside our front door or parking available at rear.

#### Surgery Hours

|          |                |
|----------|----------------|
| Mon-Fri: | 12.30pm-4.30pm |
|----------|----------------|



Please note that consultations are by appointment.  
For more information visit [www.lakevet.com.au](http://www.lakevet.com.au)



Your pets are part of our family too!

# Dental care



## The importance of dental care



BELMONT • CHARLESTOWN • SWANSEA  
[www.lakevet.com.au](http://www.lakevet.com.au)

# How can dental disease be prevented?

Our aim is to prevent the build-up of plaque on your pet's teeth. We can do this by:

## ✔ Dietary control



Our aim is always to ensure that your cat or dog is given chewy meals. Soft, moist canned foods, minced meat or pet sausage foods do not require your pet to chew to receive its nutrition and should be avoided.

Dry biscuits, chunky meat or daily raw meaty bones will help keep your pet's teeth free of plaque. We recommend raw chicken necks or wings for small dogs and soft brisket bones or large marrowbones for larger dogs.



Please do not feed cooked bones. Commercial high-quality dry biscuits are also available from our practice to specifically prevent dental plaque and tartar forming on teeth. Rawhide chews and pigs' ears to gnaw on are also available and recommended.

## ✔ Brushing your pet's teeth

Special pet dental pastes are available for owners to apply to their pet's teeth and gums with a soft toothbrush or moulded finger toothbrush. Often pets do not appreciate this process, so gradual introduction to this activity is required for effective owner and pet compliance to be achieved. Please do not use human toothpastes.



## ✔ Oral antiseptics

These are a good adjunct to other forms of preventative dental health care as they reduce bacterial oral contamination. The antiseptic is added to the drinking water and is well tolerated.



## ✔ Regular dental check-ups

At your pet's annual health examination we will always examine your pet's mouth, gum and teeth for any signs of dental disease, as early detection and appropriate treatment will greatly assist in avoiding long-term recurrent health issues. Home checking of your pet's mouth regularly for halitosis, inflamed gums or discoloured material on the teeth is also a good idea.



# How is dental disease treated?

After a veterinary examination, we may recommend that your pet requires a dental procedure in hospital under a general anaesthetic.

Dental plaque and tartar can be removed safely and gently using an ultrasonic dental scaler, which causes minimal gum damage. After teeth are scaled, they are always polished to retard the deposition of more plaque. Teeth that are likely to cause ongoing pain through cavities, fractures, gum disease or deep gum pockets are likely to be extracted.



In our practices we have we have state-of-the-art dental suites with high-speed equipment that allows us to remove poor teeth safely, while minimising trauma to adjacent mouth areas.

# How do we care for your pet after a dental procedure?

**Analgesics are given before, and often after, the procedure, to ensure a comfortable recovery. We may also prescribe antibiotics to treat any oral infections.**

We often request a complimentary patient check-up a week later to ensure that the healing and recovery processes are proceeding well. Soft food should be given for the first week after any extractions until we are sure that the gums have healed properly.

Of course, we are always available for you to contact us if you have any concerns with your pet's recovery, appetite or comfort after the dental procedure and anaesthetic.

Appropriate dental hygiene is essential to your pet's long-term wellbeing and comfort. Regular dental checks at home and at our practice, combined with appropriate chewy foods, will ensure your pet has a healthy mouth and a quality, happy life.

Please do not hesitate to call any of our practices if you feel that your pet has any dental problems.