

General Facts

Oral Health

Periodontal disease is a significant problem affecting our pet population. >85% of dogs over 3 years old have this problem. If left untreated it can lead to local discomfort, bone loss, and even to pathological fractures of the jawbone. It can also cause systemic disease and affect internal organs such as the kidneys, liver and heart. Signs include:

Bad breath, Loose teeth, Behavioural changes, Dropping food, drooling or even gobbling food (to avoid chewing)

However in lots of cases there can be **no outward signs of this disease**. Pets can often have dental disease and appear to eat normally. Changes are often gradual and it can be hard to recognise symptoms especially as the pets adapt to the changes and "act normally". It is therefore important we assess your pet's mouth on a regular basis. This will be done at the health check for the annual vaccinations and also during the 6 month Pet Health Club™ check for our Pet Health Club™ members.

Tips to Avoid Disease

Start a homecare programme when the dog or cat is young. Training them to allow you to examine and brush teeth means you can reduce the plaque build up which leads to tartar. Daily brushing is an important tool (see our leaflet on homecare and brushing). Our RVN can help you start a programme of oral health care even in older pets. They can provide information on diets and chews that are safe for teeth and are shown to help reduce periodontal disease. We recommend products on the VOHC (Veterinary Oral Health Council) list as these have shown they are proven to help. <http://www.vohc.org/index.html>.

Avoid hard chews like antlers and bones. These can fracture teeth. Equally avoid tennis balls, sticks etc as these can cause excessive wear. Improving oral health is a team effort. We will work with you to keep your pet's mouth in good condition. The regular assessment and professional clean that is part of a stage 1 is an important regular treatment in conjunction with your homecare. This can be carried out every 12-24 months depending on how quickly tartar builds up.

Get in Touch

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Dental Care

Keeping on top of your pets oral health



At Kingston Vets we are passionate about maintaining a high standard for your pet's oral health. Our Beverley Road surgery is a dedicated dental branch, and all procedures take place here in one of our two dental suites.

We offer carefully planned stages of intervention, tailored to your pet's needs. These are separated into two stages.

Stage 1 - oral health assessment, full mouth dental x-rays, professional cleaning.

Stage 2 - oral surgery, dental extractions (if required).

Separating the procedure in this way provides the following benefit for you and your pet.

General Anaesthetic

Changes such as low blood pressure or low body temperature can be managed with two shorter anaesthetic procedures.

Planned Intervention

In approximately 28% of dogs and 53% of cats, dental disease is diagnosed on x-ray. All necessary extractions are planned and take place at the stage 2 procedure, once the investigation has revealed the presence of any disease.

Accurate Estimates

To accurately determine any dental disease that would require tooth extraction, a full mouth examination, x-rays and assessment are required. By staging the procedure, extractions can be planned, with accurate tailored estimates provided for your pet.

What does it Cost?

Stage 1

This is a fixed price which includes:

- 60 minutes GA time
- Hospitalisation and nursing care throughout the day
- Full mouth dental x-ray. These are vital to properly assess the health of the tooth especially its roots. In some cases, disease can exist around the root only and not be visible on the crown. Knowledge of root health is also important if extractions are required as this may alter the extraction technique.
- Comprehensive oral assessment and charting. The oral cavity is examined in full. Gingival and periodontal assessments are made. A dental chart, with all the information gained from the exam, is completed. From this further intervention can be planned as required.

- Professional cleaning. An ultrasonic scaler is used to clean the teeth thoroughly. The scaler is designed to be used above and below the gumline. The "below the gumline" clean (subgingival) is important as dental calculus here can't be seen and can lead to disease.

- Post op call and homecare advice: Our Registered Veterinary Nurses (RVN) are passionate about dental health and will advise you how to continue maintaining oral health with a homecare programme. Further assessment appointments can be made with the RVN to assess your progress.

Additional Costs

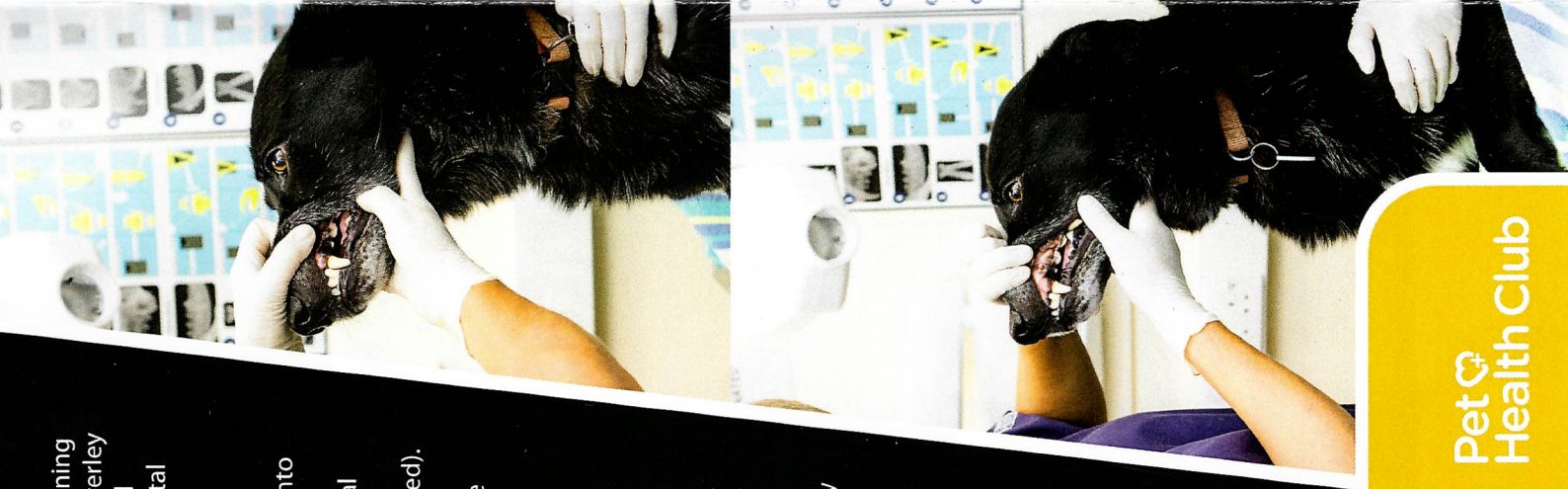
- Blood sampling: pre-anaesthetic blood tests may be advised before proceeding with the dental assessment. This will be discussed with you when the dental appointment is advised.
- Fluid therapy: Some patients may benefit from intravenous fluid therapy during the stage 1 procedure. This will be discussed with you by the vet when your appointment is advised.
- Pain Relief: If painful dental disease is found during the stage 1 procedure we will provide pain relief to be administered until the dental treatment concludes.

Stage 2

If abnormalities are found on a Stage 1 assessment, we will discuss them with you. Advice will be given on the treatment required and, if this involves extraction, we will provide you with an estimate of cost. Other treatment options may be recommended such as periodontal therapy or root canal treatment. These will be explained, and estimates provided.

Costs are specific to your pet's needs and the number and type of extractions required. They include:

Hospitalisation and nursing care; general anaesthesia; anaesthesia monitoring; intravenous therapy, local anaesthetic nerve blocks, pain relief, dental surgery, post extraction x-rays, post op checks.



10% DISCOUNT

for Pet Health Club™ members
on dentistry procedures

Pet Health Club