

Wignall Animal Hospital  
and  
Lowell Veterinary Clinic



# **Pet Dental Health Facts**

## Pet Dental Facts



Dogs have 28 baby teeth as puppies.  
Cats have 26 baby teeth as kittens.



By the age of 6 months, these baby teeth fall out and are replaced by permanent teeth.



Dogs will have 42 permanent teeth.  
Cats will have 30 permanent teeth.



Broken teeth are a common problem, especially for outdoor dogs and cats. Chewing on hard objects is a primary cause for broken teeth.



Resorptive Lesions are the most common tooth disease in domestic cats. Studies show that approximately 28% of domestic cats develop at least one of these painful lesions during their lifetime.



Developing a dental care program at home for your pet(s) is the first step to helping your pet(s) maintain a healthy mouth and teeth.

## Signs of Periodontal Disease



*Tooth loss*



*Going to the food bowl, but not eating*



*Subdued behavior*



*Swallowing whole food*



*Abnormal drooling*



*Bad breath*



*Dropping food out of the mouth*



*Yellow-brown crust on teeth*



*Change of chewing or eating habits*



*Bleeding gums*

## Contributing Factors to Periodontal Disease



**Poor Oral Hygiene:** Ignoring the condition of your pet's mouth can lead to periodontal disease, tooth loss and other health problems such as damage to the kidney, heart muscle and liver.



**Breed:** Periodontal disease is more common in smaller breeds of dogs and certain breeds of cats, but 85% of *all* pets have some form of oral disease by age three.



**Congenital Predisposition:** Pets can have a congenital predisposition to dental disease. Therefore, it is best to start a dental health program as early in life as possible.

## Examples of Periodontal Disease



## **Treatment of Periodontal Disease**

- ❖ If any of these signs are present your pet should be taken to your veterinarian for a dental exam.
- ❖ Oral disease is the most frequently diagnosed health problem for pets.
- ❖ Oral disease begins with a build up of bacteria in your pet's mouth.
- ❖ To prevent any type of oral disease from happening, practice a regular dental care routine at home where you can brush your pet's teeth with special formulated toothpaste, followed by a special pet tooth sealant called Oravet.
- ❖ Another way of preventing oral disease is by asking your veterinarian about specially formulated foods with proven benefits in plaque and tartar control.