

Dental Report Card

...Passionate about dentistry...



Statistically, 80% of all dogs over 3 and 70% of all cats over 3 years of age have some clinical degree of periodontal disease.

What exactly is periodontal disease?

To help you understand this common disease we have listed the standard grading system for periodontal disease in dogs and cats.

Dogs

Cats



NICE JOB! No sign of plaque or calculus.

Home dental care is needed to maintain these healthy teeth and gums. Brushing your pet's teeth regularly is ideal. There are also products available to help make home dental care easier

Stage 1 Early gingivitis:

The margin of attached gum is inflamed and swollen. Plaque covers teeth. Home dental care is needed. If there is no improvement, dental cleaning will be needed to remove current plaque buildup. No radiographic changes. Is reversible with treatment

Stage 2 Advanced gingivitis

Increased inflammation with subgingival plaque and calculus. No root exposure. Little to no radiographic changes visible. Is reversible with treatment

Stage 3 Early periodontitis

The gums are red and bleed easily...they have been permanently damaged by the calculus and infection. The mouth may appear sore and bad breath is evident. The teeth must be cleaned and a thorough assessment of the periodontal disease is needed immediately. A calculus control diet and home care are needed afterward to prevent recurrence.

Stage 4 Advanced periodontitis

Chronic infection is destroying the gums, teeth, and supporting bone. Bacteria is spreading through the body via the bloodstream and may damage vital organ systems. Dental cleaning and assessment of periodontal disease is needed immediately. Some teeth may need extraction. Home dental care will be needed afterwards to stop progression of this disease.

Please have your doctor examine your pet's teeth and grade his or her degree of periodontal disease, if present.

Early intervention is important because dental disease...(1) is usually painful, (2) can cause disease in other organs such as the heart, liver, and kidneys, (3) may shorten your pet's life, (4) may cause loss of your pet's teeth, and (5) can be expensive to treat.

Remember: if either gingivitis or more than slight calculus buildup are present, periodontal disease is present and we recommend that you discuss treatment options with your doctor or one of the staff in our dental department.