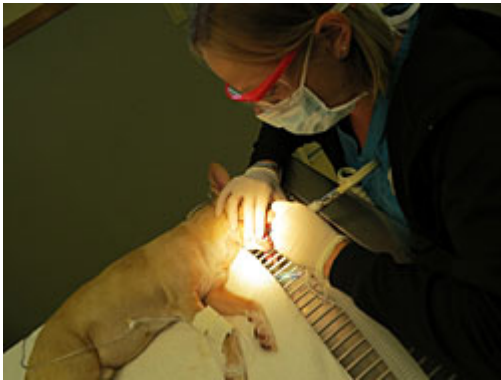


# Dental disease

The majority of cats and dogs over the age of 2 have some form of dental disease. During your regular wellness and vaccination exams Dr. Neumeister will take a close look at your pet's gums, check the teeth for plaque and tartar, oral infections, bad breath and other problems. This is important because the signs of disease can be subtle at first. Oral disease will affect the overall health of your pet greatly. Especially heart-, liver- and kidney disease can be the result of bacteria from bad teeth.



Some dogs (usually small breeds) can require a dental up to every 6 months. Other dogs can go 3 to 4 years between dental cleanings. Typically, after the age of 2 or 3, most dogs and cats will need a dental every 1 to 2 years. Dr. Neumeister may recommend a particular dental cleaning schedule, oral care routine, or special treatment based on your pet's dental health needs.

If you notice any of the following signs *in between* your pet's regular wellness exams call us at 563-582-8417 to make an appointment:

Bad breath

Yellow, brown, or discolored  
teeth

Loose teeth

Red, inflamed gums

Swollen mouth, jaws, or gums

Doesn't play with chew toys  
as often

Pain when eating

### **The professional dental cleaning includes:**

- **Ultrasonic scaling** above and below the gum line – this debris often goes unnoticed yet is the primary element of periodontal disease.
- **Polishing** to smooth your pet's teeth, which will help make the teeth more resistant to plaque build-up.
- **Irrigation treatment** with a special solution around the gum line to remove plaque that was surrounding the teeth.

### **The Procedure**



Generally, dental cleaning as well as oral surgery (extractions) are an outpatient procedure. We ask that you withhold food after 8 PM or 9 PM on the day before the procedure. You can either drop your pet off at 8 AM on the day of the procedure, or you can stay during the initial sedation process. The dental cleaning will usually be performed in the morning and in most cases the patient will be able to go home in the afternoon. Even pets receiving advanced oral surgery, such as extractions will be able to go home on the same day.

**We follow a proactive protocol to assess our patients and monitor their care throughout the dental procedure.**



A physical examination *and* pre-surgical blood work for each of our patients is done prior to placing them under anesthesia. The blood work will help to rule out any pre-existing internal problems that may not be evident physically.

Our team monitors each patient throughout the dental procedure to ensure the patient is responding appropriately to the anesthesia. This includes: manual monitoring, electronic monitoring, IV catheter, intravenous fluids, antibiotics and pain medication. We use very safe anesthetics and monitor your pet in our recovery kennels afterwards.

Before and after examples:

*(Warning: the photos below show dental disease. Please do not scroll down if this makes you uncomfortable)*

## Canine Patient : dental cleaning

BEFORE



AFTER





## Feline Patient : dental cleaning with extractions

BEFORE CLEANING AND ORAL SURGERY

AFTER CLEANING



AFTER ORAL SURGERY TO EXTRACT TEETH



### **At home care**

To reduce dental disease and help your pet live a healthy life we recommend:

- **Daily brushing** – the most recommended way to keep your pet's teeth healthy.
- **CET Chews and and feeding T/D diet**– are other ways to help keep your pet's teeth healthy.