

As with people, pets need to keep healthy teeth and gums throughout their life. As your dog matures it is more important than ever to take care of his teeth and gums.

Dental **Care** for your senior dog

Dental disease affects around 85% of dogs over the age of 3 years...



What is Dental Disease?

Oral health problems begin with a build up of plaque, a sticky film that is continually forming on the teeth. Plaque can harden leaving unsightly tartar if left untreated. Plaque and tartar can lead to gingivitis, a painful condition of inflamed gums, and eventually, periodontal disease may develop. In severe cases damage is so bad that the gums recede and eventual loss of teeth occurs.

As the infection in the mouth increases, tonsillitis and pharyngitis can also occur. The bacteria are absorbed into the blood stream and carried to other organs - older dogs' heart conditions are frequently due to poor oral health. Kidney and liver problems can occur too.

Are some breeds more prone to poor oral health?

Overcrowded or misaligned teeth are more often a problem for smaller breeds and can encourage periodontal disease. Feeding your dog sticky food can lead to a more rapid accumulation of plaque. Dental disease occurs more commonly as your dog gets older.

How can this be prevented?

Arrange for an appointment with the nurse who can advise you on how best to care for your dog's teeth and gums.

