



Dogs Have Teeth Too!



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Dental Report Card

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When was the last time you looked in your dog's mouth? Dogs often go for months and even years with painful gingivitis, fractured teeth or severe tooth root abscesses without noticeable clinical signs to the owner. Proper dental care can potentially add years of life to your dog.



NICE JOB!

No sign of plaque or tartar. Brushing your dog's teeth regularly is ideal.

Dental care by the owner is needed to maintain these healthy teeth and gums. There are products available to help make dental care by the owner easier.



STAGE 1 – Mild gingivitis: (reversible stage)

The margin of attached gum is inflamed and swollen. Plaque can be seen on the teeth.

Dental care by the owner is needed. If there is no improvement with owner care, then professional veterinary dental cleaning may be needed to remove plaque buildup and prevent progression of dental disease.



STAGE 2 – Moderate gingivitis: (reversible stage)

The entire gum is inflamed and swollen. The mouth is painful and odor is noticeable; tooth roots have lost up to 25% of their attachment. Bacteria begin to impact other body organs.

Professional veterinary dental cleaning is needed **within two months**. Dental care by the owner is needed for future prevention.



STAGE 3 – Severe gingivitis: (potentially reversible stage)

The gums are cherry red and bleeding, damaged by infection and calculus. A sore mouth and bad breath are evident. Heart valves and kidneys are exposed to bacteria & may be experiencing inflammation & damage.

Professional veterinary dental cleaning is needed in **two to four weeks** along with antibiotics and pain medications. Extractions are likely. Dental care by the owner will be discussed in detail.



STAGE 4 – End stage periodontal disease: (irreversible stage)

Chronic infection is destroying the gums, teeth and bone. Many teeth are loose. Bacteria are spreading through the body and heart, liver and kidneys are compromised. Pain is constant.

Professional veterinary dental cleaning is needed **immediately**. Extractions, antibiotics, and pain medications will be necessary. Dental care by the owner is needed for future prevention.



dental photos courtesy of: Dr. Jan Bellows