



Dental Disease doesn't have to be a Painful Problem



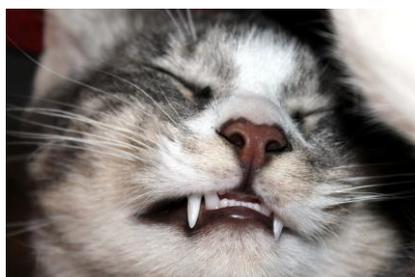
I qualified as a Veterinary Nurse twenty years ago and I am currently working as a Registered Veterinary Nurse for Park Veterinary Group. I have been employed by Park Vets for the last six years and I have always had a particular interest in Dental Care and Nurse Clinics.

I would honestly say that at least 70% of all animals that I see in my clinics have some degree of dental disease. This could be anything ranging from tarter build up to gum disease, gum recession and even rotten teeth.

I would like to share my clinic experiences with you and talk about the common questions that I get asked and tell you about the many myths and misunderstandings that I come across. I will also run through a major hidden dental problem that affects cats and the treatment and care that we can provide for our pets.

Question: Should I brush my dogs teeth?

Answer: Absolutely YES! The same as in human's dogs need to have their plaque removed by brushing. You can buy a special chicken flavoured toothpaste called CET Enzymatic Toothpaste for our cuddly canines which they love. It's a sticky toothpaste therefore if you use a finger brush and gently apply it to the teeth and gums it sticks and dissolves the plaque (Amazing!)



Question: How often should I brush their teeth?

Answer: Every day if possible but 3-4 times a week is good.

Question: Can I brush my Cats teeth?

Answer: You can try is my honest answer, we do have a special fish flavoured toothpaste but if you are afraid of losing your fingers then we do have other alternatives and dental diets that work really well.

Question: Do Dental Chews in dogs and Dental treats in Cats work?

Answer: No not 100%. This is because teeth are rounded, and it is impossible for these chews to reach the gum line correctly and this is where the tarter builds up and causes gum recession. They do however reach the waistline very well and many animals that come to

our Weight Watchers need to stop these chews as they are very high in calories.

When I show clients their pets dental disease in my clinic I often get told:

He/she is fine they're still eating they can't be in any pain!

Answer: Yes, dogs and cats would eat they have a built-in survival instinct and they will battle on trying to ignore pain. But they are in pain and rotten teeth, gum recession and tarter build up that's left can lead to bigger problems such as tooth abscesses and then severe pain. If your cat/dog has stopped eating due to dental disease then the pain has become unbearable for them, not eating is the very last resort.

But my dog only had a dental done 2 years ago?

Answer: I understand but if you went to the dentist and had a tooth fixed and then went home and didn't brush your teeth for 2 years then I can guarantee that when you went back you would have tooth decay and probably need more treatment.



How much is that going to cost, dental procedures are expensive!

Answer: They might seem expensive but that is because we are used to having our treatment through the National Health Service. If you've ever had any major dental work such as crowns, tooth removals, root canals or even a simple filling done privately that you would know that these procedures can cost thousands of pounds. We provide a very well-regulated dental with a professional veterinary surgeon and a Registered Nurse, they have the best treatment including inter operative fluids and dental x-rays and then teeth removal with the best equipment and modern techniques.



Just an example, a cat that we had in recently who was 14 years old had a pre-operative assessment with the vet surgeon. A very well monitored anaesthetic with the latest Blood Pressure equipment and fluid therapy. A full set of mouth x-rays that are recorded on file and shown to owners, He had eight teeth removed by a skilled dentist using modern techniques, full pain relief and full post-operative care. The dental took 3 hours to do and the owner was charged £450. We even provide payment plans and set dental prices so no matter how long and complicated they are you only pay the one price. **AMAZING!!**

Oh, and Bertie is a lot happier with no painful teeth and if you have ever had a tooth ache that you will know how important this is.

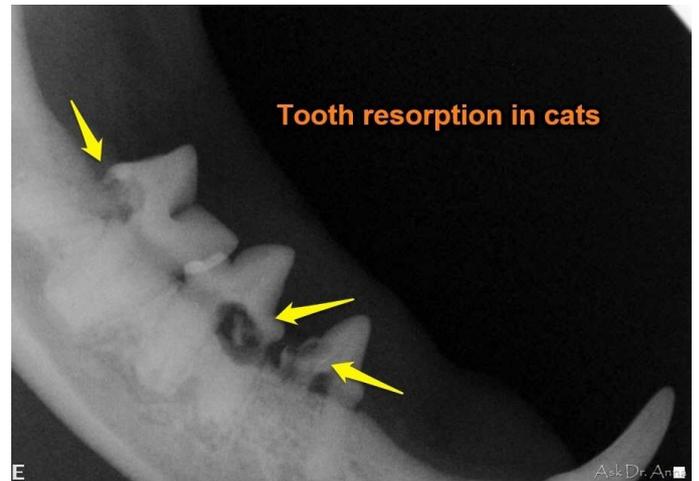
Cats have a hidden problem!!

Unfortunately for our cats there is a big problem that occurs with their teeth that we often cannot see, this disease is called:

Feline Oral Resorptive Lesions or FORL'S.

This is a genetic disease that cats suffer with and as of yet we as a profession are not completely sure why it happens. Basically, cat's teeth will start to break down just under the gum line and then holes will start to appear. This problem is very painful for them but not always noticeable when examined.

However, when we x-ray the teeth when the cat is anaesthetised this is what we see



These holes are massively sensitive and painful for our cats and they can be seen in any age of cat this is not an old age issue.

There are however a few tell-tale signs to look out for:

Has my cat's breath become very bad?

Has he/she gone off their dry biscuits and prefers wet food?

Have their gums started to bleed?

Has my cat started to become depressed and just not themselves?

If you are at all worried that please never hesitate to arrange an appointment with us and we can check your cat's teeth.

We can also do routine dental x-rays for cats under a general anaesthetic which would hopefully catch the problem early.



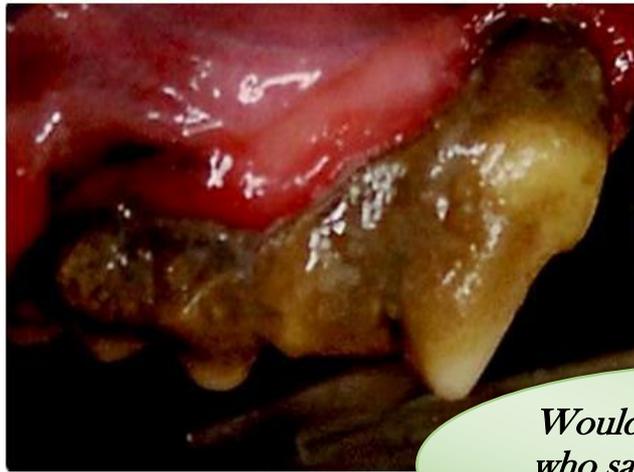
So lets recap!

Our lovely pets need to have dental care just like we do so that they don't have painful teeth and sore gums.

Severe tooth decay can affect other organs such as the kidneys because of the constant swallowing of very nasty bacteria.

Our pets have the same pain as we do they are just very good at hiding it.

For example:



Would you believe someone who said that their dog wasn't in pain with this tooth?

Thank you for reading this article and I hope that it has helped to answer some questions but please never hesitate to bring your loved ones down to see me in a free nurse clinic or one of my many Registered Nurse colleagues and we will be only too happy to examine your pet's teeth and then refer you onto the Veterinary Surgeon if we feel that they need treatment.

I can also demonstrate brushing teeth and show you the latest products and then we can all have teeth like these.

Jane Edwards MBVNA RVN BA



