

Dental Disease



Because most of us don't clean our pet's teeth then dental disease will always be an issue for many of our cats and dogs. September was National Pet Smile month and we visited Frampton Country Fair and spent the day chatting to pet owners and offering free dental checks. Though we found lots of nice white teeth there were many middle aged and older dogs suffering from moderate plaque and tartar build up through to severe periodontal disease and frankly rotting teeth.

This problem is often hidden from you as we don't always look in our pet's mouths and pets won't tell you they have bad teeth. The worst affected teeth are often the molars right at the back and the front teeth can be clean and deceive you. Bad breath is the main thing noticed by most owners.

Bad teeth are not just a cosmetic problem. You just get the bad breath but pets suffer chronic discomfort and pain and

are constantly swallowing bacteria and toxins every time they swallow saliva and food which can cause other health issues. Pets with bad teeth often don't seem ill but are always livelier and brighter once their dental disease has been treated. Most need scaling and polishing under general anaesthetic and any bad teeth removed. Pets, even old ones, cope really well with the procedure and the improvement in the quality of life is always rewarding to see. Since the show in September and through the rest of 2009 we are offering a 10% reduction in fees for dental procedures so if your pet has bad teeth and you have been putting off dealing with it then now is the time. Please call us to find out more.

If you are unsure if your pet needs dental treatment then we can check your pet's teeth while visiting you for other reasons and Joy, our practice nurse, will continue to offer free dental checks throughout this time. Preventing dental disease is down to diet and giving your pet's teeth some 'work' to do. Chews and toys and suitable raw / smoked bones all help to get saliva and gums and teeth working and 'cleaning'. Cooked bones should always be avoided.

Diets that include biscuits, 'hard' feed and even raw meat and bones promote dental health, take longer to eat and can be more stimulating for your pet.