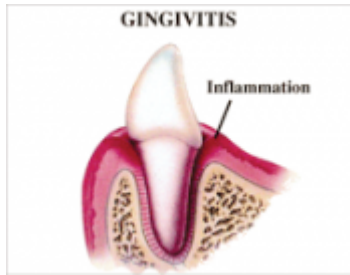
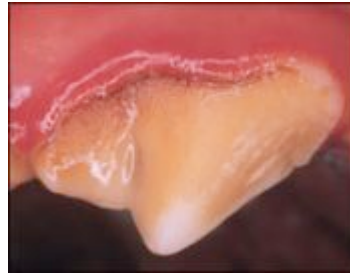


## Four Stages of Periodontal Disease

**Stage I Gingivitis** - Margin of attached gingiva (gum) is inflamed and swollen. Plaque covering teeth. Treatment can reverse condition.



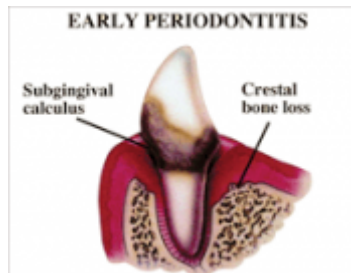
Canine



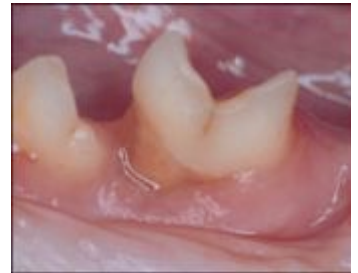
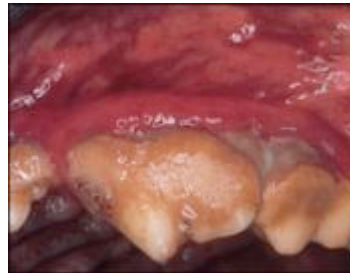
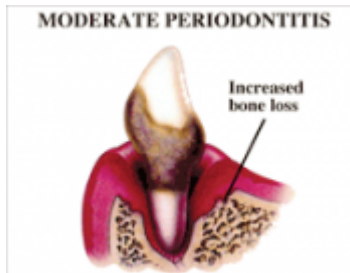
Feline



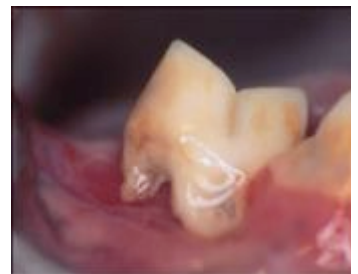
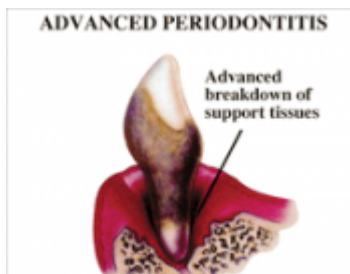
**Stage II Early Periodontitis**  
- Entire attached gum is inflamed and swollen. Mouth is painful and odor begins to be noticeable. Professional treatment and home dental care can prevent this from becoming irreversible.



**Stage III Moderate Periodontitis** - Cherry red and bleeding attached gum is being destroyed by infection and calculus (tartar). Sore mouth affects eating and behavior. Bad breath is present. Beginning of periodontal disease. May be irreversible.



**Stage IV Advanced Periodontitis** - Chronic bacterial infection is destroying the gum, tooth and bone. Bacteria may be spreading throughout the entire body via the bloodstream and may damage the kidneys, liver and heart.



**Dental Calculus (Tartar):** Dental calculus deposits on the teeth are made up of calcium salts, food debris, and bacteria. Calculus eventually starts digging into the gum (gingival), the gums recede and a condition known as gingivitis (inflammation of the gums) and periodontitis (inflammation of the membrane lining the tooth socket) results. Eventually, without the treatment, the teeth become loose and fall out. In addition, bacteria from the calculus can enter the blood stream and spread infection to the kidney, liver, and heart valves.

**Grade 1 Periodontal Disease:** Mild Gingivitis; Gums are slightly reddened.

**Grade 2 Periodontal Disease:** Mild to moderate gingivitis; Gums are red and swollen,. Showing signs of receding and may bleed; Halitosis (bad breath).

**Grade 3 Periodontal Disease:** Moderate to severe gingivitis; Gums are swollen and receding, Gum loss is advanced, loose teeth and possible tooth loss; Severe Halitosis (bad breath).

**Grade 4 Periodontal Disease:** Severe gingivitis; Gums are swollen and receding; Infection is present; Bone loss is advanced; Loose teeth and possibly tooth loss; Sever Halitosis(Bad Breath)

**Odontoclastic Resorptive Lesions** (neck lesions): Neck lesions are similar to cavities (dental caries) in people except they are not caused by bacteria. Often they are under the gums and only visible during dental procedures, many require X-rays to diagnose. They are very painful since cats have thin teeth and the nerves and blood vessels of the inner tooth pulp are commonly exposed before the lesions are first detected. Most lesions require extractions or crown amputation to eliminate the associated pain.

**Retained Deciduous Teeth:** Dogs and cats have deciduous (temporary) teeth and permanent teeth just as we do. Occasionally, a pet will not shed a deciduous tooth when a permanent tooth comes through the gum. Retained deciduous teeth should be removed by one of our veterinarians to prevent abnormal positioning of the permanent teeth and gum disease that could result in the loss of both the permanent and deciduous teeth.

**A note about Dental Pain:** Regular veterinary examinations are especially important in preventing dental disease since **dogs and cats rarely show signs of even serious painful dental disease.** This is Mother Nature's adaptation to survival in the wild but it can actually hinder the owner's ability to detect dental problems. We do not believe that pets experience pain to any lesser degree than we do; they simply are more tolerant of pain.

### **Before the Dental Procedure**

During the examination, our veterinarian will discuss your pet's dental care needs and overall health status. If infection is noted in the tissue around the teeth, antibiotics may be prescribed. Since your pet must be anesthetized to allow us to do a thorough cleaning of the teeth, any risk associated with the anesthesia will also be discussed. Blood test to assure adequate organ function will be performed. Dentistry can be done any weekday. Please call us beforehand to schedule the procedure. Do not feed your pet after 10:00 p.m. the night before the dentistry. Please bring your pet to the hospital before 9:00 a.m. on the day of the procedure. Most animals can go home the same afternoon or evening.

### **Dental Procedure**

If your pet develops calculus, the doctor will recommend dental scaling, polishing and fluoride treatment. We use an ultrasonic dental unit with high-speed vibration that gently and thoroughly cleans the surface of the teeth above and below the gum line. Dental scalers are then used to clean the between the teeth and the gums carefully examined for any disease requiring additional treatment. Finally, the teeth are polished to a high gloss and a fluoride treatment is applied. A beautiful and healthy smile is the end result.

Our efforts then turn to dental home cares. Often we send home dental hygiene materials at no charge to you to help prevent or at least slow down the progression of dental problems.

### **Prevention of Dental Disease**

Dry pet food and dog biscuits help prevent the build-up of dental calculus and strengthen the gums and teeth, but do not totally prevent build-up of calculus. Prescription Diet T/D is the most effective dietary product designed for prevention of dental disease. Some dogs and cats, like some people, just seem to have more than their share of dental calculus and must have frequent routine cleanings performed. Brushing the teeth daily with a specially designed toothbrush and a pet dentifrice is the best way to prevent dental calculus. Many pets will tolerate this after a gradual introduction period. Other dental hygiene methods such as dental gels, rinses and chews may be helpful if brushing is not a practical alternative for your pet.