

The Professional Dental Cleaning with Comprehensive Oral & Radiographic Evaluation

A professional dental cleaning involves many steps and CORE is actually a better description of the process as it is performed in our pets. Since they do not brush and floss daily, we see advanced periodontal and dental pathology in our pets regularly.

A shocking 90% of dogs have evidence of periodontal disease year of age! The dogs at the highest risk of periodontal disease have their first professional cleaning and assessment at one age. Our small breed dogs, those with an adult weight of 12lbs are at the highest risk for early pathology. This is likely due to crowding of the teeth in the small jaw and to heredity factors.



Young Pomeranian w/ Crowding and retained baby teeth

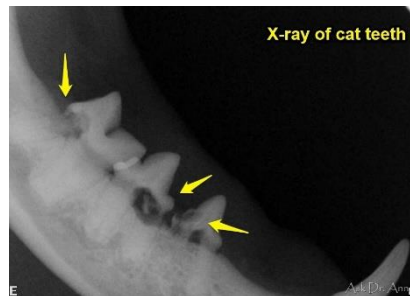
by one
should
year of
or less,
both



Greyhound w/ Periodontal Disease

Some larger breed dogs also have higher than normal periodontal disease risk and that includes Dachshunds (all sizes), Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Greyhounds and the brachycephalic breeds like Boxers, English and French Bulldogs, Boston Terriers and Pugs.

Most other dog breeds typically have their first professional CORE procedure at the age of 3 to 5 on their yearly oral exam findings. Most cats fall in that although along with periodontal disease, they have problems with tooth resorption, a peculiar problem teeth begin to reabsorb, a very painful process. By the most cats have at least one tooth affected by this uncomfortable, progressive disease



Dental X-ray of Cat w/ Resorptive Disease

depending
same range
additional
where the
age of 8,

By addressing periodontal disease early, we can try to the problem and save teeth. If the pathology is not discovered until they have bone loss and deep periodontal pockets, the affected teeth often simply cannot be salvaged. And most importantly, those teeth are infected and painful and the dog is living with that all the while. Many pets reveal no symptoms of their dental disease to their owners. They must eat to survive, and so they soldier on even with very painful oral problems.

mitigate

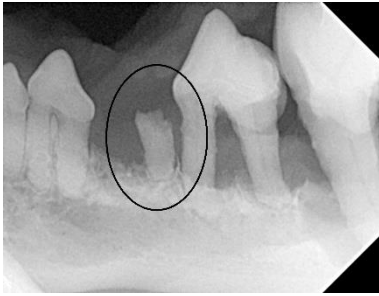
Twice yearly dental exams can help detect these problems before they progress to end stage teeth. Ultimately, only x-ray will reveal everything, but the dental exam during a physical often gives us many clues as to the likelihood of disease below the gum too.

A complete professional dental cleaning includes:

- 1) Pre-anesthetic evaluation and laboratory assessment for anesthesia
- 2) Individualized anesthesia and intensive monitoring by trained professional staff using state of the art monitoring equipment
- 3) Antiseptic pre-rinse to decrease bacterial load
- 4) Supra-gingival cleaning above the gumline – ultrasonic and hand scaling
- 5) Subgingival scaling – below the gumline – the most critical area
- 6) Thorough polishing of all surfaces to decrease rough spots for tartar to attach
- 7) Lavage of the sulcus of the gingiva to clear any debris & bacteria
- 8) Complete oral exam and measurement of periodontal pockets (all charted)
- 9) Full mouth dental radiographs (x-rays) to reveal the 60% of the tooth that isn't visible as well as the crowns of the teeth
- 10) Treatment planning and therapy as indicated on the exam and radiographs
- 11) Application of Barrier sealant
- 12) Anesthetic recovery and return to owner
- 13) A home care plan for maintaining dental health after the professional care

The most common problems found on a CORE procedure:

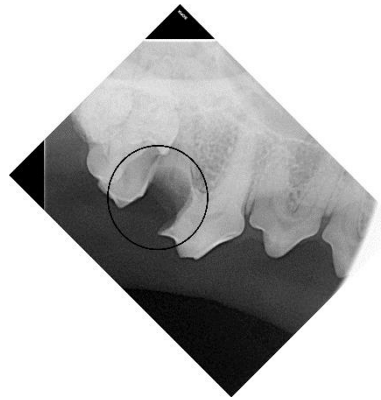
- **Periodontal disease** – like people, this is very common and the infection and inflammation leads to bone loss and damage to the periodontal ligament leading to painfully loose teeth
- **Fractured teeth** – these are quite common and often the result of chewing on hard items such as antlers, cow hooves, bones, nylon toys, etc.. For cats, this is most often due to a clumsy landing and fractured front teeth. Some fractures are actually in the root below the gum and are not visible.
- **Non-viable (or dead) teeth** – also the result of chewing on hard items or forceful play or trauma to the tooth
- **Resorptive lesions** in cats causing painful exposure of the root structure (and less commonly in dogs)
- **Dental abscesses**, usually at the hidden tip of the tooth root and visible on x-ray. Many of these teeth may appear normal above the gum line.
- **Crowded teeth** that have erupted obliquely because the jaw isn't large enough to accommodate all the teeth – this leads to damage to the adjacent teeth and dental structures.
- **Retained Deciduous teeth** (baby teeth) that never shed and cause crowding and decay of the adjacent adult teeth



*Dental X-ray of Dog w/ a Fractured
Tooth Root*



*Dental X-ray of Dog w/ an
Abscessed Tooth Root*



*Dental X-ray of Fractured Crown
of a Tooth*

Is anesthesia necessary – absolutely yes! A safe, effective cleaning and dental x-rays can only be done with general anesthesia, although it is typically a very light plane of anesthesia as compared with general surgery.

A recent study demonstrated that patients who received anesthesia-free dental procedures had more severe dental disease than those who did not have such a procedure.