

Tweed Veterinary Services

Patient History for Oral Assessment

Owner.....Patient.....Date.....

1) Is the animal showing abnormal signs that might indicate oral disease such as difficulty chewing, inability to open or close the mouth and/or excessive salivation?

2) Does the patient's breath smell bad?....., **Halitosis**, the offensive odor that accompanies periodontal disease, results from the bacteria associated with plaque, calculus, diseased gingiva and decomposing food particles retained in periodontal pockets.

3) If you want to establish and maintain a healthy mouth for your pet, the **oral assessment** provides the necessary information to make appropriate treatment and prevention recommendations.

4) What measures are you taking now at home for the pet's oral health?.....

The gold standard is tooth brushing daily to control plaque.

5) Are you able to brush or wipe the pet's teeth twice daily?

Plaque, the precursor of periodontal disease, accumulates within 12 hours of thorough teeth cleaning. Unless it is removed daily, plaque remains on the tooth surface and often irritates the gingiva. Also, salivary minerals change the plaque to calculus and that attracts more plaque, eventually leading to periodontal disease .

6) Will your pet allow brushing or wiping of the teeth once or twice daily?.....

If a dog or cat will not allow manual plaque control, **Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC)** approved dental diets and treats are the best alternatives to help control plaque and calculus.

7) What do you feed to your pet?

Soft and semi-soft foods accumulate below the canine and feline gingival lines and promote periodontal disease. Hard kibble food crumbles easily when chewed, contributing to plaque accumulation. Dental diets remain intact longer and have been shown to help reduce the buildup of plaque.

8) What kind of chew toys does your patient have? Inappropriate toys can break teeth and hurt an animal's gingiva. Generally, all chew toys need to be able to bend. Recommend avoiding cow or horse hooves, nylon products, bones, ice cubes or any toy that is harder than the pet's teeth. Hard rubber and soft, bendable chew toys are considered safer for teeth.

9) Does your patient currently receive dental treats? If so, how often?.....

Several dental treats have been thoroughly researched for plaque and calculus control by the **Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC)** and awarded the **VOHC Seal of Acceptance**. A list of these may be found on www.VOHC.org.

10) When was the last time the patient had a professional teeth cleaning? What, if any, dental care has the pet received in the past?

ORAL ASSESSMENT, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION (ORAL ATP) visits should be scheduled semi-annually or annually for most cats and dogs on a daily plaque control program. Other pets need more frequent examinations and dental care to prevent periodontal inflammation.