

Signs and Symptoms of **Serious** Dental Disease



1. Persistent bad breath
2. Sensitivity around the mouth
3. Pawing at the gums
4. Loss of appetite
5. Plaque (often not visible unless stained)
6. Bleeding, inflamed, or receded gums
7. Tartar (creamy-brown, hard material)
8. Loose or missing teeth
9. Difficulty eating and chewing food
10. Increased drooling, sneezing

The Progression of Gingivitis to Periodontal Disease in the Cat and Dog



**DENTAL CLEANING
COSTS LEAST AT THIS
STAGE**

Mild Gingivitis – Grade 1

Inflammation

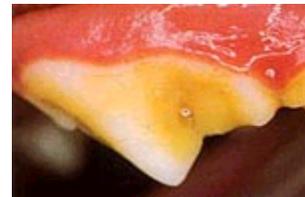
Margin of attached gingiva (gum) is inflamed and swollen. Plaque covers teeth. This is already uncomfortable at this stage. Treatment can reverse this condition. These teeth need to be cleaned **now**, and a regular plan of Homecare implemented, if it is not already in place. Professional handscaling and fluoride treatment may be all that is needed by us at this stage, with continued care by you at home. Just as with humans, proper tooth care and early intervention affects the cost and degree of treatment required.

We prefer that our patients NEVER advance to the next stages. This requires that you, as the caretaker of your pet's health follow our recommendations closely.

Moderate Gingivitis - Grade 2

Inflammation, edema, gingival bleeding upon probing

Entire attached gingiva (gum) is inflamed and swollen. Mouth is very painful although pets rarely complain, and odor begins to be noticeable. Professional treatment and home dental care can



prevent this from becoming irreversible. In cats especially, deep and painful cavities at the neckline of the teeth occur quickly under the plaque and tartar. The cost of treatment increases with the severity of the dental disease found under the tartar. Antibiotics and pain medication may be necessary.

**DENTAL CLEANING COSTS
MORE THE LONGER YOU
WAIT!**

Severe Gingivitis - Grade 3

Inflammation, edema, gingival bleeding upon probing, pustular discharge -- slight to moderate bone loss.

Cherry red and bleeding attached gingiva (gum). Gingiva is becoming destroyed by infection and calculus (tartar). Sore mouth affects eating and behavior. Bad breath is present. Beginning of periodontal disease may become irreversible. These mouths are very painful, even though your pet may not complain in ways that we humans can understand. Teeth may need to be extracted.

WE SEE THIS TOO OFTEN!



ORAL SURGERY STAGE - Costs continue to rise with severity. Higher if multiple extractions. Dental xrays, ECG needed Pain level rises too.

Periodontal Disease - Grade 4

Inflammation, edema, gingival bleeding upon probing, pustular discharge, mobility -- marked bone loss



Chronic bacterial infection is destroying the gum, tooth, and bone. Bacteria are continually spreading throughout the body via the bloodstream and will cause damage to the kidneys, liver, and heart. Bone loss can cause unstable lower jaw and mandibular fractures (jawbone) can occur, especially in small dogs and in cats. Preanesthetic blood panel evaluation, pre dental antibiotics and pain medication become especially important. Antibiotics to treat bone infection, and pain medication are imperative. Cavities are common in cats. Abscesses are common in both cats and dogs. Xrays become necessary before some lower teeth can be extracted. Many teeth may need to be extracted. Dental surgery with tooth sectioning by high speed drill, gingival flaps and sutures are often required, necessitating the patient being under anesthesia for an extended period of time. Cost of treatment can easily exceed \$500 - \$1,000. With fractures, this cost is much higher. Cost to your pet in terms of health risk, pain and discomfort is not measurable.



PERIODONTAL DISEASE MAY CAUSE

SEVERE BONE LOSS

FRACTURE MANDIBULAR

Grade 4 periodontal disease requires immediate attention to save your pet from chronic pain and agony as well as prevent possible life threatening disease.

ORAL SURGERY STAGE – Costs are significant and pain level is severe. Higher costs when multiple extractions, gingival flaps are needed.

Dr. Keith Clark is a member of the American Veterinary Dental Society

A qualified professional provides complete oral hygiene health, anything less is merely, "tooth grooming". We can help you know the difference.