



Frequently asked questions:

Why do animals need regular dental care? Just like us, plaque and tartar will accumulate on their teeth. Plaque is a biofilm of bacteria that forms over teeth. It is that 'fuzzy' feeling before you brush your teeth in the morning. Plaque is easily removed with daily dental care (ie; brushing and dental diets). Even with daily dental care, some tartar will accumulate in hard to reach spots and between teeth that need to be scaled.

If plaque is left on the teeth it mineralizes into tartar. Tartar is the brown layer you can see on your pet's teeth – it must be removed by ultrasonic scaling. We use the same equipment your dentist uses and we do the same procedure.

In order to get the most from your scale and polish procedure, talk to us about dental home care options for after the scale and polish is performed.

What is involved in a dental scale and polish procedure? We perform a thorough oral examination, then scale and polish all surfaces of the teeth. Animals require a general anaesthetic to have a scale and polish procedure performed. Every animal receives a pre-anaesthetic veterinary check, pre-anaesthetic sedation, intravenous fluid support, nurse monitoring throughout the procedure and during their recovery, dental scale and polish to remove all plaque and tartar. Some animals will require dental x-rays to examine below the gum line.

We also offer pre-anaesthetic blood tests as routine pre-anaesthetic screening tests prior to anaesthetic. It allows us to check your pet's kidneys and liver prior to anaesthetic. Please ask at reception on the day of your pet's anaesthetic if you would like us to do this. The cost of the pre-anaesthetic blood test is \$90.

Why are inflamed gums a problem? Inflamed gums are caused by bacteria and tartar on the teeth causing inflammation. If left untreated your pet will develop cavities and gum recession. There is also a chance the bacteria present in plaque and tartar will enter the blood stream and cause infections of vital organs – including the heart, liver, pancreas and kidneys.

Do cavities hurt? When considering your pet's teeth, it is easiest to remember - "if you think it would hurt in your mouth, then it will be hurt them too". Animals have the same nerves in their mouth as we do, so a cavity will hurt. As will a broken tooth or inflamed gums.

What happens if we do nothing? Tartar and gum inflammation will progressively get worse. As tartar accumulates it pushes on the gum line causing inflammation and pain. When the tartar sits against the teeth it can cause cavities – cats are especially prone to these developing. It also causes periodontitis. Periodontitis is inflammation of the deeper tissues around the roots of the teeth. This will cause pain, tooth loosening, bone loss, eventually tooth root infection. Our aim is to maintain your pet's dental health and reduce the risk of them needing extractions.