

## WHEN SHOULD I SEEK DENTAL CARE?

Dental issues and dental-related diseases can easily be prevented by visiting our veterinarians regularly for dental examinations and cleanings. We take a comprehensive approach to dental care including dental health assessment, treatment, and prevention.

Here are some before and after photos of a particularly special case to show the benefits of a dental cleaning!

### BEFORE



### AFTER

\*NOT THE SAME PATIENT



Our commitment to providing exceptional oral care for pets is unwavering, and we strive to deliver compassionate care that exceeds your expectations.

**REQUEST AN APPOINTMENT**

**253-863-2258**

**hospital@sumnervet.com**

**16024 60th Street E  
Sumner, WA 98390**



**SUMNER**  
VETERINARY HOSPITAL  
24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICES & CRITICAL CARE

*Pet Dentistry*



**WE TAKE  
CARE OF YOUR  
PET'S SMILE**

[www.sumnervet.com](http://www.sumnervet.com)

# WE OFFER DENTAL CARE TO HELP YOUR PET MAINTAIN A HEALTHY AND CLEAN MOUTH

Annual dental exams and cleanings are recommended to protect your pet from many health problems and help them maintain a healthy and clean mouth. Studies show that 50% of all dogs and cats have some form of periodontal disease. That number jumps to 80% in pets that are three years of age or older. If left untreated, periodontal disease can cause infection, pain, and tooth loss over time. It can also lead to serious health problems like microscopic changes in the heart, liver, and kidneys. Because of this, we recommend an annual veterinary dental health care examination for all pets.

## WHY DO PETS NEED DENTAL CARE?

Many health problems start in the mouth. Plaque, tartar, periodontal disease, and infected teeth serve as a source of inflammation and infection for the rest of the body.

Dental disease is one of the most common problems that we see in dogs and cats. It can cause drooling, reluctance to eat, swelling, bad breath, redness of the gums, loose teeth, and tooth discoloration.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

### TEETH EXAMS, CLEANING, AND POLISHING



Dog and cat dental cleanings are very similar to human dental cleanings, except that we are required to use anesthesia to properly and safely examine and clean the teeth. After the cleaning, our veterinarians perform a thorough oral exam and check for signs of disease like gum loss, root exposure, or pockets around the root.

Also similar to human dentistry, we do full mouth radiographs (X-rays) of your pet. This allows our veterinarians to be able to evaluate the roots of your pet's teeth as well as any disease or abnormalities that are located below the gumline and not visible on examination alone.

### MINOR ORAL SURGERY

Many teeth require oral surgery to safely remove each individual root. We have extensive training and experience to perform these procedures properly. Pain medications are administered in the clinic and provided for in-home aftercare.

### TOOTH EXTRACTIONS

We make every effort to save teeth that we feel have a chance to be successfully treated. In many circumstances, however, periodontal disease is so advanced that treatment without extraction is unsuccessful. This may be due to severe bone loss, extensive gum recession, or other complications associated with advanced periodontal disease. In such cases, extraction may be the only viable option to prevent further damage to the surrounding tissues and to maintain oral health. We only extract teeth that in the doctor's opinion are beyond saving, taking into consideration various factors such as the severity of the periodontal disease, the overall oral health of the patient, and the potential benefits of extraction versus attempts at saving the tooth.

Our priority is to preserve natural teeth whenever possible, and extraction is considered as a last resort when all other treatment options have been exhausted.

