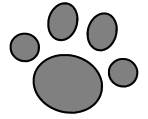


LIBERTY VETERINARY HOSPITAL Paw Prints Monthly



February 2011

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Liberty Veterinary Hospital strives to create a state-of-the-art pet care facility that meets all of our clients' & pets' needs from nutritional supplies, boarding and grooming to the highest level of medical and surgical care. Because our team can only be as good as the sum of its parts, we nurture and educate our staff so that we may all provide uncompromising service, compassion, kindness and caring for each patient as a member of our own family.

FEBRUARY IS DENTAL CARE MONTH

Dear Friend,

One of the most important, but often overlooked services we provide is oral health care. Bacteria from periodontal disease not only causes bad breath and loose or missing teeth, but it can cause damage and disease to your pet's liver, kidneys, heart, and cardiovascular system.

LVH can help. We offer thorough oral examinations, dental x-rays, a full cleaning both above and below the gum line, and a wide range of products that make it easy for you to maintain your pet's good oral health care at home.

Amy Johnstone, DVM

Robyn Collins, DVM

Holly Gossett, DVM

****Receive 10% off Dental Cleaning if scheduled in February and 25% off dental products purchased with Dental (to be performed during February or March) ****

**Visit Our Website
www.libvethosp.com**

OUR HOURS:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. 7:30am - 7pm

Wed 7:30am - 6pm

Sat 8:00am - 2pm

Sun Closed

Did You Know ...

We offer you access to your pet's record

We offer dog obedience training recommendations

We offer full grooming, boarding and surgical services

We offer massage and rehabilitation therapy

We really look forward to visiting with you and your pet!

Dental Care Shouldn't Be Like Pulling Teeth!

PET DENTAL FACTS*

- Periodontal disease is the most common disease among dogs and cats.
- According to the AVMA, "more than 85% of dogs and cats that are at least 4 years old have a condition in which bacteria attack the soft gum tissue. This condition is called periodontal disease. Periodontal disease is the final stage in a process that begins with the development of plaque on your pet's teeth."**
- Periodontal disease is common in dogs of smaller breeds because dogs' teeth often are too large for their mouths, forcing the teeth closer together.
- Dogs start out with 28 deciduous (baby) teeth, cats start out with 26 deciduous teeth. By six months of age, these baby teeth fall out and are replaced by permanent teeth, 42 in the dog and 30 in the cat.
- Broken teeth are a common problem for dogs, especially among outdoor dogs. According to veterinary dental experts, aggressive chewing on hard objects is a primary cause of broken teeth in dogs.
- Odontoclastic resorptive lesions are the most common tooth disease in domestic cats. Studies show that about 28 percent of domestic cats develop at least one of these painful lesions during their lifetime.

*www.petdental.com

**www.avma.org



SIGNS OF PERIODONTAL DISEASE

All pets are at risk for developing dental problems. Once a pet displays any of the warning signs below, serious periodontal disease may be present. Don't wait for these signs. Start a preventive program of veterinarian supervised dental care today.

- Tooth loss
- Subdued behavior
- Abnormal drooling
- Dropping food out of the mouth
- Swallowing food whole
- Bad breath
- Yellow-brown crust on teeth
- Bleeding gums
- Going to the food bowl, but not eating
- Change of chewing or eating habits

CAUSES OF PERIODONTAL DISEASE

Plaque is a colorless film that contains large amounts of bacteria. If left unchecked, plaque builds up, creating infection, destroying gums and resulting in the loss of the tissues and bone that support the teeth. Preventive oral care can reduce the formation of plaque and help maintain proper oral health throughout a pet's life.



Pet Dental Care

How to brush your pet's teeth



When brushing your pet's teeth, hold the toothbrush at a 45-degree angle to the tooth surface and use small circular movements. Do not use toothpaste made for people as it can be toxic to pets. Veterinary toothpaste is available.

Daily tooth brushing is an essential part of your pet's health.

As with any new learned behavior, it is important to start slowly, with patience and positive reinforcement, to condition your pet to allow the tooth brushing process. To start, place a small amount of veterinary toothpaste on your finger and let your pet sniff and lick it. If your pet shows interest in the flavor of the toothpaste, use it. If your pet is not interested in the toothpaste, brush the teeth without it. Do not use human toothpaste because it contains fluoride, which should not be swallowed. Concentrate on the outer surfaces of the teeth. Hold the toothbrush at a 45-degree angle to the tooth surface, with the bristles pointing toward the gum line. This allows the cleaning of the gum line while the teeth are being brushed. Work the toothbrush in a circular motion. Try for 15 seconds on each side of the mouth. Go slowly and be patient. If things aren't going well, wait a few hours before trying again.

P H K M L T A V D X N D G G T
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 K A T T B L F X A N I M U R P
 R L M D T F I D E D D K P H Y
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 X H Z R Y N Q G S Q M E P I P
 Y Y T S A A T E Q U G V G D A
 C S T E L C A A Z I Q F A E H
 A M F P E S L I L D P H P J F
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CAT
 DOG
 GINGIVITIS
 GUMDISEASE
 HAPPYPET
 HEALTHYSMILE
 TEETH
 TARTER
 PLAQUE
 PETDENTALEXAM
 ORALCARE

Ask Us! -

Our staff is thoroughly trained and will be happy to explain the benefits of our dental treatments, recommend in-home care programs that will fit your lifestyle, and teach you how to use the recommended products.

We believe very strongly in the benefits of good oral care and look forward to working with you and your pet on the road to good oral health. Thank you for choosing Liberty Veterinary Hospital for all of your pets' health care needs. It is our pleasure to be a part of your family!

Here are some things you can do to prolong the health and life of your pet:

- **Diet** - It is very important to start preventative dentistry while your pet is still young. The right food can help fight plaque and calculus and provide optimal nutrition for your pets' life stage. Ask us to recommend a diet appropriate for your pet.
- **Oravet** - Oravet provides a protective coating on your pets' teeth that decreases plaque. We use this product after each of our professional teeth cleaning procedures and you can use it at home weekly to maintain a protective coating.
- **C.E.T HEXtra Chews** - These are a great way to protect your dog's teeth because most dogs really enjoy them. Each chew is coated with 10% chlorhexidine solution, an anti-bacterial/anti-fungal medication which fights gingivitis. As long as your dog chews the product for more than one minute, chlorhexidine binds to the teeth and gingiva (gum tissue) providing sustained plaque control. Vegetarian variety now available for dogs that have meat allergies.
- **Brush!** - One of the best ways to prevent plaque buildup and decay is to brush daily. If your pet won't let you touch their teeth, ask us to have our groomer brush them for you at your pet's next

