



PAWS & CLAWS
ANIMAL HOSPITAL
HOLISTIC PET CENTER

Periodontal Disease

Periodontal disease (inflammation and infection of the teeth and gums) is the most common infectious disease in dogs and cats. It is also the one that is most easily prevented and treated.

It is important to intervene early when treating periodontal disease. Left untreated, periodontal infection can spread throughout your pet's body causing infection and inflammation in other organs including the heart, lungs, GI tract, pancreas (in human medicine, diabetes can be a complication of periodontal infection,) and joints.

Because your pet has been diagnosed with periodontal disease, it is important to schedule treatment as soon as possible, ideally within the next 1- 2 weeks.

Treatment must be done under light sedation or anesthesia. *"Anesthesia -free" dental cleanings will not properly treat periodontal disease and are considered malpractice by the veterinary dental community!*

While sedated, your pet will have the infection removed from the teeth and gums using an ultrasonic scaler. The teeth will then be polished to smooth any imperfections in them. A topical anesthetic will be applied to ensure a pain-free recovery. A dental bonding gel is applied to decrease future periodontal disease (this should also be continued at home,) and a topical antibiotic gel will be used to reduce periodontal pockets and return or restore your pet's gums to their proper health.

Note: Many people are concerned about sedation/anesthesia in older pets. Sedation/anesthesia is very safe in older pets when done correctly. Many clients are referred to our practice for our holistic approach in sedating/anesthetizing our patients. Your pet will receive the tiniest amount of sedation/anesthesia and is constantly monitored during the procedure by two veterinary assistants and a machine to monitor your pet's vital signs.

In order to ensure the treatment is done as safely as possible, we will need to do the following testing:

Blood Profile/ Urinalysis – These tests are done to see if another disease is present which might affect your pet's anesthesia and to determine if organ damage is present secondary to your pet's periodontal infection.

Electrocardiogram (EKG) – This is done to look for an abnormally slow or fast heart rate and the presence of abnormal heartbeats.

In order to prevent further damage to your pet's teeth and gums, please schedule your pet's periodontal treatment as soon and as possible and let us know if you have any questions or concerns about your pet's treatment.

Paws & Claws Animal Hospital and Holistic Pet Center – 2145 W. Park Blvd Plano, TX – (972) 867-8800
<https://www.pawsandclawsanimalhospital.com/>