**SPECIFIC DENTAL PROBLEMS**

**Retained Deciduous Teeth:**
Baby teeth that do not fall out normally. These teeth must be extracted to prevent the adult teeth from being damaged. Usually a problem in small and toy breed dogs.

**Malocclusion:**
Underbite/overbite problems can cause the teeth to hit each other or bone. Baby or permanent teeth may need to be extracted to prevent oral pain and problems with eating.

**Feline Oral Resorptive Lesions:**
Cats can have problems with oral health involving their tooth surface which can cause early cavities and deterioration of their teeth. This is an extremely painful oral disease of younger cats and even if addressed early and aggressively they can still lose all of their teeth.

**Feline Stomatitis:**
An immune related disease in cats that affects their oral mucosa and gums. It is very painful and can be caused by viral infections such as Calicivirus, Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) or Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV)

**Oral Cancer:**
Although not common, oral neoplasia can occur in both dogs and cats. The majority of malignant oral tumors are very aggressive and invade bone and surrounding soft tissues in the oral cavity. It is very difficult to treat oral cancers and can require combinations of biopsy, radical surgery, chemotherapy and/or radiation.

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**Our Mission**
Enriching the relationships between people and pets in the communities of North Central Washington with comprehensive, compassionate and committed care, each patient, every day, without exception.

Where to find us:

**Cascade Veterinary Clinic**
1201 Walla Walla Avenue, Wenatchee, WA 98801
Directly across the street from Lowe’s.
Visit our website at: cascadevetclinic.com

**Bavarian Village Veterinarian**
11777 US Highway 2, Leavenworth, WA 98826
On the south side of US Hwy 2 before entering town.
Visit our website at: bavarianvillagevet.com

**Signs of Dental Disease**
- Bad breath
- Loose teeth or teeth that are discolored or covered in tartar
- Your pet seems scared when you touch their mouth
- Drooling or dropping food from the mouth
- Bleeding from the mouth
- Loss of appetite or loss of weight

These signs could indicate many different diseases and it is important you have your pet examined if any of these symptoms occur.

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**STAGES OF PERIODONTAL DISEASE**

There are four stages of periodontal disease in dogs and cats. We will examine your pet’s mouth and teeth to help determine what type of treatment program is appropriate. The longer dental care is delayed, the more irreversible the damage from infection becomes to the root and bone. Systemic infection is spread from the teeth and bone into the bloodstream, seeding into organs such as the heart valves, liver and kidneys.

**Stage 1**
Pets that have overall healthy structure, minimal tartar without fractured teeth, no loose teeth, receded gums or deep pockets next to the roots.

**Stage 2**
Pets that already have advanced dental disease. Mild tartar, gum edema, worn teeth, loose teeth, gingiva damage, infection and/or moderate pockets next to the roots.

**Stage 3**
Pets that have advanced dental disease with moderate tartar, gum edema, fractured teeth, loose teeth, gingiva damage, infection and deep pockets next to the roots.

**Stage 4**
Pets that have severe dental disease. Most if not all of their teeth are past the point of salvage. Severe tartar, fractured teeth, loose teeth, gingiva damage, bone and sinus infection and root resorption. These pets usually have concurrent systemic infection and pain.

**PREVENTION AND MAINTENANCE**

Start teaching them as puppies and kittens to sit for their teeth brushing. Get them used to letting you open and touch inside their mouth. Praise good behavior for allowing you to do an oral check.

Provide healthy and safe chew toys. Pets will have most of their adult teeth by the time they are 6-8 months old. Caring for baby teeth leads to adult pets that will welcome or tolerate life-long oral care. Most pets over 2 years of age will have tartar accumulation if you don’t prevent it.

Brushing, dental treats/chews and dental diets are the most effective methods. Make sure you match your pet to the chew or treat. Some pets may gorge whole treats that can cause digestive upset or obstructions. The goal is for them to **chew** on the dental treat, not swallow it whole.

Just as in humans, you have to provide friction to the surface of the tooth to remove and control plaque (i.e. brushing, rubbing or chewing). Once the visible tartar has accumulated (gold/brown build up) on the teeth it is extremely difficult to remove without a professional Dental Prophylaxis.

**“Dental Prophylaxis” VS “Dental Cleaning”**
Eating produces plaque on the teeth. Unless it is removed by abrasion (brushing or chewing) within **36 hours**, it hardens into tartar which **cannot be effectively removed with chews or bones**.

A Dental Prophylaxis uses an ultrasonic tool to remove the tartar. Then the teeth are polished smooth. Finally, a fluoride treatment and sealant are applied just like your dentist does.

Imagine your dog sitting motionless with their mouth wide open for all of that! **This is why it has to be done under anesthesia for dogs and cats.**

**“Dental Cleanings”** at a groomer are basically just brushing the teeth. Scraping tartar off yourself without the polishing, leaves the tooth’s surface rough, which can increase the rate at which tartar builds back up.

Lower priced procedures may not include a sealant and other options, so ask exactly what is included.

**VETERINARY ORAL HEALTH COUNCIL APPROVED PRODUCTS:**
- T/d Hills and Purina Dental Diets
- Greenies - Enzyme Chews
- Virbac CET® VeggieDent®
- Pet-specific toothpastes