



Don't Brush Off Dental Care

Oral disease is the most frequently diagnosed health problem for our pets. This is of importance because disease from the mouth can spread to their heart, kidneys, liver and other vital organs. Bad breath in our pets is probably the number one indicator that there is something going wrong in our pet's mouth, but most owners are unaware of the dental techniques that can be used to diagnose, treat and maintain a healthy mouth. As veterinary professionals we perform yearly exams on all of the pets that we see and this includes a dental check for fractured teeth, tartar, oral tumors or infection. Our goal is to **prevent** dental disease. Many times dental cleanings are recommended for our pets to

prevent the more serious periodontal disease that it can progress too. So even if it doesn't appear that there is a lot of disease in the mouth at the time, the goal is to never reach that point. Periodontal disease is a very serious and often painful condition that includes bone loss (that can only be diagnosed with dental radiographs), severe gingivitis and possible loose or broken teeth. In

addition to veterinary care there are many options for the pet owner to do at home. Our veterinary team wants to share these techniques with you including dental brushing demonstrations, oral rinses, special dental chews and food. Please ask us how we can help your pet's mouth stay strong and healthy.



Dental Facts
80% of dogs and 70% of cats show signs of oral disease by age 3, according to the American Veterinary Dental Society (AVDS).

Leptospirosis Alert

If you live in Wisconsin, you are probably aware of Lyme disease. However, are you aware of Leptospirosis? Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection that attacks the kidneys, liver or both. It is carried by infected rodents and wildlife, and shed into the environment when they urinate. Other animals (and people) are infected when they come in contact with this infected urine. In order to develop the infection, the infected urine must contact either broken skin or a mucous membrane (eye or mouth). Because dogs spend a lot of time sniffing, picking up things in their mouth and licking their feet, they are commonly infected. For people, it is more common to con-

tract the disease after swimming in contaminated water.

Signs of Leptospirosis depend on the organ infected and the severity of the disease. In the early stages, fever, lethargy, decreased appetite and increased thirst and urination may be noted. As the disease progresses, vomiting, diarrhea, severe depression, anorexia and collapse may be noted. Unfortunately, the disease is difficult to predict; some animals will develop mild symptoms and recover on their own while other animals will actually die from the disease! It used to be thought that only hunting dogs and farm dogs were at high risk for this serious disease, however, this fall our hospital saw

several cases and NONE of them would have been considered "high risk" for exposure!

There is some good news! First, if a pet is diagnosed with Leptospirosis, treatment with antibiotics may be life-saving. In most cases, the pet needs hospitalization and fluid support until the antibiotics can take effect, but when caught early most of these pets will recover. Second, there is a vaccine available. There are many different serovars (types of Leptospirosis) and we cannot vaccinate for all of them. However, there is a vaccine for the four most serious serovars. Please discuss this life-saving vaccine with one of our doctors or staff if you have further questions!

Introducing Pat Eckes, Lead Receptionist



Pat & Louie

Pat grew up east of Mosinee on a dairy farm where she had the pleasure of working with many animals. They had cows, chickens, rabbits, cats, dogs, ducks and all the extra wild animals that came around.

After getting her degree in the printing field, she moved to the Stevens Point area and worked at the Shopper's Herald, The Plover Press and Spectra Print Corp. In 2009, the opportunity came along for her to work at Oakview Veterinary Medical Center as Lead Receptionist and to help with our marketing. She enjoys working with all the different animals again.

Pat is married to her loving husband Tom. They have 2 daughters Jackie & Maddie. Jackie and her husband, Dan, have Pat's first granddaughter Terra. Maddie is working and going to college. Pat enjoys helping taking care of her daughter's dog Louie and other neighbors' and friends' animals.

Oakview Update

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Brighten your pet's smile and join us as we celebrate Dental Quarter (January, February and March).

For more information:

www.OakviewVet.net