



14 The Fingerpost,
Douglas, Cork
Tel: 021 489 3033
Fax: 021 489 3443
W: www.animalcarehospital.ie

Dental Care

How to look after your pet's teeth

Dental disease can be a relatively silent but debilitating condition. At the Animal Care Hospital we regularly perform dentals on all ages and sizes of pets using only the highest quality of medicines and equipment. This is imperative for your pet's safety and to achieve a top quality and longer lasting result.

How do you know if your pet has dental disease

You may notice one or more of the following:

1. Smell from the breath.
2. Drooling.
3. Inactivity/less inclined to play, lethargy.
4. Personality or temperament change, less social (i.e. aggression/depression).
5. Pets can be 'head shy' not as keen for rubs on the head or touching of the mouth.
6. Changes in eating habits i.e. eating less/not eating hard food in preference of soft food
7. dropping food out of the mouth/wincing in pain during eating.

On examination during consultation we look out for:

1. Tartar build-up.
2. Reddening of gums (gingivitis).
3. Evidence of fractured/broken teeth.
4. Dental decay (caries).
5. Evidence of teeth abscesses.

On noticing any of these we will offer a dental operation for your pet under general anaesthesia.

General Anaesthetic

This is the safest currently available ('The Gold Standard'). This standard is well above the 'average' anaesthetic.

- Our anaesthetic drugs, anaesthetic machines, and anaesthetic equipment are maintained to the highest standard, and serviced regularly.
- Your pet's anaesthetic is constantly monitored by our trained and experienced, qualified *veterinary nurses*.
- Your pet will have an intravenous (into the vein) catheter in place throughout the procedure should any emergency medications/fluids need to be given. (Even though complications with our anaesthetics here are extremely rare).
- Anaesthesia is maintained by anaesthetic gas and 100% oxygen via an endotracheal tube (tube down throat). This is the safest form of anaesthesia, and significantly safer than relying on the (cheaper) alternative of using injectable anaesthetics alone.
- Every care is given to avoid any discomfort for your pet; pain relief is given before, during and after the procedure.

The dental procedure

We use the same equipment as a human dentist

- Our new ultrasonic de-scaler/polisher dental system efficiently and gently returns your pet's teeth to like they were as a puppy!
- Just as you experience at your dentist the teeth are thoroughly scaled then polished. Results with our machine show that the tartar does not build up again as quickly as it does with other less modern systems.
- Polishing after scaling is an essential part of the dental procedure and while it adds extra time to the procedure it will greatly benefit the health of the teeth and extend the intervals between dentals considerably.
- Polishing is ALWAYS performed on dentals done at the Animal Care Hospital
- Our dental drill is precise and sharp. Not every practice is equipped with a dental drill and without a drill it is necessary to divide multi-rooted teeth for extraction with a tradesman's hacksaw. We are delighted to have our dental specialised mini-drill!

How to keep your pets teeth shiny, healthy and clean

Chewing

By chewing something hard, i.e. toys, a good marrowbone (must not be breakable), biscuits and being fed on a complete dry diet (hills science plan/TD diet-700 gm sample included with your dental,- free). This action cleans the teeth and keeps them strong and healthy.

Brushing

If your pet will cooperate, this is the best way to keep the teeth clean. Brushing your pet's teeth doesn't take much time and is fairly easy. It is a lot easier to start at a young age. There are specifically formulated animal toothbrushes and toothbrushes available at the surgery. It is not recommended to use human toothpaste, as they are too minty and frothy and contain high levels of fluoride. Ask one of our nurses for a demonstration.

Regular Check-ups

Ask your vet to check your pets teeth.

Remember (as with our own teeth) by doing a scaling and polishing on time you will save your pets teeth, prevent significant complications and have a healthier (& "sweeter smelling") pet.

Remember if you book the procedure when recommended you will save yourself some money too.

If you require any advice about pet dental care, please get in touch by phone [\(021\) 489 3033](tel:0214893033) or email contact@animalcarehospital.ie