



Otonabee Animal Hospital

“Going the distance for you and your pet!”

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February 2014 Newsletter

Oral health/Smile Please!

Which teeth would you rather have in *your* mouth?



a.

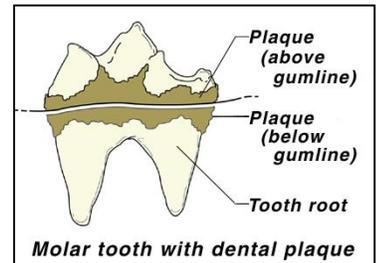


b.



DID YOU KNOW that dental disease is the most common disease in dogs and cats? Over **68%** of all pets over the age of three have some form of periodontal or dental disease. Most pets will show few signs of dental disease. It is up to the pet's family and veterinarian to uncover this **hidden and often painful** condition.

The accumulation of tartar and bacteria on the teeth surfaces lead to **infection** and **gingivitis** or inflammation of the gums. If gingivitis is allowed to persist untreated, then irreversible **periodontal disease** will occur. During this process the bone and ligaments that support the tooth are destroyed leading to eventual tooth loss. Infection around the socket causes the formation of pus and a foul odor and may spread deep into the tooth socket creating an abscess, or even more severe problems such as bone or tooth loss.



As the oral infection increases, tonsillitis and pharyngitis can also occur. In addition, the bacteria are absorbed into the blood stream and can be carried to other organs. Heart valve infections (*endocardiosis* or *endocarditis*), kidney and liver problems are **frequently caused by "bad teeth"**.



Plaque becomes mineralized much quicker in some dogs than in others. Special canine chew toys as well as feeding specifically-formulated dental diets for dogs & cats may help **reduce tartar build up** (but will **not remove** existing tartar), as does regular home care such as tooth brushing. Once tartar has formed it will be necessary to remove it by professional scaling and polishing under anesthesia.



We are now pleased to offer Reward Certificates for a 10% discount on your puppy or kitten's spay/neuter when they have their full course of core vaccinations at Otonabee Animal Hospital! Please ask at reception or call us at (705) 743-4936 for more details

