



Pet Dental Health Awareness

February is National Pet Dental Health Month. Do you know these fast facts about your pet's teeth?

Signs of oral health problems in dogs and cats

- Bad breath
- Broken or loose teeth
- Extra teeth or retained baby teeth
- Teeth that are discolored or covered in tartar
- Abnormal chewing, drooling, or dropping food from the mouth
- Reduced appetite or refusal to eat
- Pain in or around the mouth
- Bleeding from the mouth
- Swelling in the areas surrounding the mouth

Causes of pet dental health problems

- Broken teeth and roots
- Periodontal disease
- Abscesses or infected teeth
- Cysts or tumors in the mouth
- Malocclusion, or misalignment of the teeth and bite
- Broken (fractured) jaw
- Palate defects (such as cleft palate)

What you can do for your pet's dental health

In addition to your veterinarian cleaning your pet's teeth when necessary, it's important to brush their teeth several times a week. If your dog or cat struggles with you, try brushing once a week. This type of prevention can help avoid the need for professional – and expensive – cleanings.