



# Herbers Veterinary Services

## February is Dental Health Awareness Month

Please call us to schedule a dental exam for your pet! 780-467-3765

If your pet requires a dental and is booked in for the procedure within 30 days of exam, you will receive 10% off your pet's total procedure.

### Herbers Veterinary Services

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- *The American Dental Society estimates that 80% of dogs and 70% of cats show signs of oral disease by the age of three.*
- *It is not unusual for a dog to have bad breath, but if it becomes putrid, it can be a sign of dental disease.*
- *Like people, a dog or cat's teeth should be white in color and free of tartar.*



### Prevent Periodontal Disease

Periodontal disease (disease affecting the teeth and gums) is very common in dogs and cats. It can affect both young and old animals. Dental care for your pet can help to prevent tooth loss, sore gums, decrease bad breath, reduce bacterial growth in the mouth, and prevent the migration of bacteria in the mouth to organs such as the liver, kidney, or heart.



### How do I know if my pet may have dental issues?

You might notice foul breath, tooth discoloration, loss of teeth, or red gums (gingivitis). The best way to identify oral disease is through an examination by your veterinarian. Sometimes your veterinarian may set you and your pet up with some home care routines, other times your veterinarian may recommend a dental prophylaxis (cleaning) be performed.

## What are my home care options?

- Brushing your pets teeth
- Special diets
- Oral rinses
- Chewable treats

*Discuss with your Veterinarian or Registered Animal Health Technologist which option(s) would be best for your pet.*



## What is involved with your pet's dental?

This procedure is performed under a general anesthetic at your veterinary clinic. Prior to booking an appointment for an anesthetic and dental cleaning, your pet's health must be evaluated during an examination. Your veterinarian may recommend pre- anesthetic blood work. All patients are placed on intravenous fluids and monitored by an Animal Health Technologist (AHT) while under anesthetic. The procedure itself involves a thorough oral exam by an AHT, a full cleaning of the teeth includes scaling (removal of plaque and tartar from above and below the gum line), polishing, and antibacterial rinse. Sometimes, once a tooth has all the tartar and plaque removed, it becomes apparent that the tooth is unhealthy and cannot be saved. Your veterinarian would then extract (remove) the affected tooth. Your pet may require antibiotics post procedure if there was evidence of infection. Your pet may also require analgesics (painkillers) for a few days after- tooth sensitivity post-cleaning and/ or extraction is normal!

## Will my pet be able to eat without the teeth my vet has extracted?

Yes! The goal of a dental is to have a mouth free from infection and the pain that is associated with it. After your pet's dental, they may need to have their kibble softened for a few days, but after that, almost all pets are able to return to eating their regular diets with few, or even in some cases, no teeth left.



## FAQ About Dental Care for Pets

### Can I brush my pet's teeth?

- YES! There are flavored tooth pastes to make this idea more appealing to your canine and feline friends. Give us a call to bring in your pet and we would be more than happy to show you how this is done.

### Is canned or dry food better for my pet's teeth?

- Hard food (kibble) is more effective at helping to reduce tartar build up on your pet's teeth.

### How often should a routine dental cleaning be performed?

- The answer is individual to each patient. To generalize- smaller breed dogs seem to require more frequent cleanings and extractions while large breed dogs should be monitored closely for tartar build up and are often more prone to broken teeth. Cats are totally individual- some are more prone to respiratory lesions and gingivitis than others.
- The only way to truly know is to make a dental health care plan with your veterinarian based on your individual pet's lifestyle and history.

### My pet has red gums and a broken tooth, but they don't seem to be in pain and he/she is eating. Do I still need to book a dental?

- Some pets will stop eating when their teeth/ gums hurt badly enough, but most pets will find some way around the pain and continue to eat. They have a very strong survival instinct and will usually continue to eat through even extreme conditions. Sometimes, signs can be as subtle as reluctance to hold toys in their mouths, difficulty sleeping, lethargy, being less playful, or resent having their teeth brushed. Some patients show no outward symptoms. Often after a cleaning people report that their pets are acting more energetic and playful than they have in years!



## How much will my pet's dental work cost?

On average, we would quote you:

Feline cleaning: \$400.00- 600.00

Feline cleaning with extractions: \$600.00- 1500.00

Canine cleaning: \$600.00- 800.00

Canine cleaning with extractions: \$800.00- 2000.00

*\*These values are average quotations given to clients over the past 12 months. For us to give you an accurate quote for your pet's dental prophylaxis, we would have to perform a dental exam to assess his or her individual situation. There is the potential of an extreme situation where our official quotation would lay outside of the above values.*





## Why does my pet's dental work cost so much?

Your pet's dental work can often seem more expensive than your own. There are many reasons for this:

- Your pet requires a general anesthetic (GA) for us to perform a safe, thorough dental evaluation and cleaning. We are not able to safely scale the tooth (both above and below the gum line), polish, and perform extractions on your pet without a GA. You can explain to people why they need to sit still and not bite the dentist during their cleanings, but you cannot explain this to your pet.
- Your pet requires an AHT to monitor their vitals and be responsible for their safety during anesthetic, upon recovery, and for the rest of their in hospital stay.
- Your pet requires another AHT to perform the dental prophylaxis.
- If your pet requires extractions, a licensed veterinarian must perform the surgery required to evaluate and extract any questionable teeth.
- Your pet requires a licensed veterinarian to prescribe, provide, and administer adequate pain control and antibiotics to your pet.
- Specialized equipment is required to perform dental work on your pets under GA- blood pressure monitors, fluid delivery systems, ultrasonic scalers, laboratory equipment, and the availability of radiographs.
- Your pet will often times require blood work or dental radiographs prior to a general anesthetic and a dental prophylaxis.
- Time and skill. Dental work is extremely time-consuming for three separate people- your Veterinarian, an AHT performing the prophylaxis, and another AHT monitoring your pet. The average dental takes these three people away from all other patients and activities in the clinic for (on average) an hour and a half. The time and skill of all of these individuals are required to ensure your pet's dental work is done accurately, safely, and to give your pet has the best dental- work experience possible.



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Please give us a call if you would like to chat with us or book your pet in for a dental consultation with Dr. Crosdale.

Keep in mind, February is Pet Dental Health Awareness Month and we have a few things going on in clinic to promote dental health in our furry friends!



## Contact us

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