



# Claws & Paws

VETERINARY HOSPITAL®

## **What is involved with home care?**

In order for brushing of your pet's teeth to be of benefit, you should brush your pet's teeth no less than once every other day, however once daily is optimal. After this time, permanent plaque is formed on the tooth. One benefit is the removal of daily accumulation of plaque from the teeth. Undisturbed plaque will result in calculus, which is a hard mineral substance that appears yellow or brown on the tooth surface. If untreated, this will lead to gingivitis, pain, infection and loss of teeth. As soon as puppy or kitten teeth emerge, it's time to start brushing. Although baby teeth are replaced with adult teeth, your puppy or kitten will become used to the brushing procedure, which continues for life.

Brushing your pet's teeth is the best thing that you can do at home to help reduce plaque build up. You can use either a pet toothbrush or a finger brush. However, remember that your fingers will be in close proximity to those teeth! Pet toothpaste needs to be used. Our toothpaste has too much flouride and is not designed to be swallowed. Special diets, mouth rinses and chews will also help to prevent dental disease.

## **How often will my pet need to have his/her teeth cleaned?**

This depends on the degree and frequency of plaque and tartar accumulation. Examine your pet's teeth monthly. Look for an accumulation of yellow or brown material at the area where the tooth meets the gum line. Pay particular attention to the cheek teeth and canine teeth. Once you notice plaque or tartar accumulation, it is time for a professional cleaning.

## **How much does it cost to clean my pet's teeth?**

It is difficult to accurately quote what the procedure will cost prior to teeth cleaning because we do not know what state your pet's teeth and gums are in until your pet is anesthetized, the tartar and plaque are removed, and x-rays are taken. The fees are based on weight of the animal, pre-operative testing, anesthesia, and any necessary therapy and medication that is indicated. The veterinary technician will be happy to give you an estimate once you bring your dog or cat in for an examination. However, please be aware that findings due to x-rays and a more thorough oral examination once your pet is asleep may necessitate further treatments that will add to the cost of your original estimate, which is based upon just an oral examination when the pet is awake.



MON

7:30AM – 6:00PM

TUE

7:30AM – 7:00PM

WED

7:30AM – 6:00PM

THU

7:30AM – 6:00PM

FRI

7:30AM – 6:00PM

SAT

8:00AM – 1:00PM

- 1) “Flat Puppy Syndrome”—This is an anaphylactic response. The pet collapses, usually within 5-15 minutes of receiving the vaccine. This type of reaction is considered an emergency. However, it rarely occurs. If your pet should have this response, chances are good that you will still be at our hospital and your pet can receive immediate and appropriate therapy.
- 2) Allergic Response—This is the more common type of reaction. The eyes, lips, nose and face can swell up, or your pet may get lumps/hives all over his body. This can occur anywhere from 15-minutes to about eight hours after vaccination. If this happens, we recommend you consult with your veterinarian, who may give treatment.
- 3) Delayed Cellular Reaction—This reaction is a delayed one where your pet will form a lump under the skin at the injection site. This lump will form usually in 1-3 weeks after vaccination and may take 1-2 weeks to go away. It should not be painful to the touch. Pain suggests an infection. If you are concerned about this, you are encouraged to bring your pet in for an examination.

Another suspected vaccine reaction involves overstimulation of the immune system, leading to autoimmune disease. Autoimmune disease because of vaccination is very difficult to pinpoint. However, it is estimated that less than 1 in 2,000 dogs (or 0.05%) have had this happen after vaccinations.

Puppies coming in for their vaccination series will be receiving different vaccines each visit, so you should observe them carefully each time.

### **Cat Reactions**

Anytime a cat has a vaccine reaction, it is considered an emergency. Cats tend to have an anaphylactic response, usually within 5-15 minutes of vaccination. Signs that you may see include excessive drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, or walking drunkenly (off balance). Should you see any of these signs consider it an emergency and immediately take your pet to your veterinarian. This happens less than 0.05% of the time. Another type of reaction is a delayed one where the cat will be lethargic for 1-2 days after vaccination. We can give your pet an anti-inflammatory injection to help prevent this.

One potential consequence of vaccination in cats involves the growth of a “Vaccine Associated Sarcoma” (tumor). Because of the secrecy with vaccine formulations, no one knows what specific ingredient is responsible for this tumor. It has been suspected that the adjuvant is involved. Because of this, our hospital uses non-adjuvanted vaccines to increase safety