



1333 Plaza Blvd, Suite E, Central Point, OR 97502 * www.mountainviewvet.net

DENTISTRY

Robert J. Landon, DVM

If your pet has a bad odor coming from its mouth this may be a clue that something is going wrong with their mouth. Dental problems can develop slowly, so even if you're an observant owner you may not notice your pet is in pain. They may only chew on one side of their mouth or not want to eat anything at all. Twenty years ago we expected large dogs to live 9 or 10 years, and now we can reasonably expect large dogs to live 12 to 13 years. This can be attributed to better nutrition, medical, and dental care. If not taken care of infections can spread bacteria into the blood stream and if left untreated can lead to liver damage, kidney failure, and tooth loss. With regular cleanings and checkups you can add years to your pet's life and wellbeing.

Oral disease is a common health problem affecting 75% of dogs and cats over the age of three. Left untreated, oral disease can lead to:

- Bad breath
- Pain
- Tooth decay or loss
- Metabolic disease (kidney or liver problems)

Common signs of oral disease:

- Bad breath
- Tartar and Calculus (yellow-brown discoloration of tooth)
- Difficulty eating
- Loss of appetite
- Increased drooling
- Pawing at the mouth
- Loose or missing teeth
- Gingivitis (red, swollen, or bleeding gums)

Preventative Care:

Plaque starts out soft but gradually hardens and turns dark brown. The hardened material is called tartar. As this tartar builds up the bacteria spreads under the gums. You can help prevent this tartar build up with preventative care. Your pet should have yearly exams so your veterinarian can determine the frequency of cleanings your pet needs. Other preventative care is dental chews and brushing the teeth. Dental chews and brushing the teeth help tartar from building up as fast. You can purchase special toothpaste that is safe for pets.