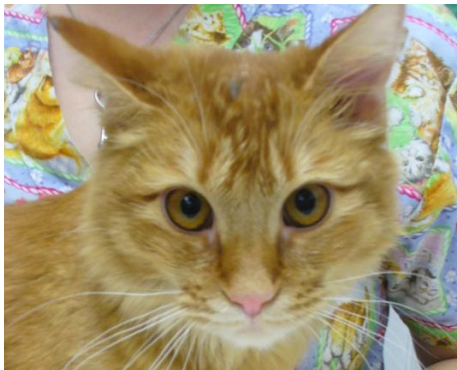




YOUR CAT'S HEALTH, OUR PASSION • VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2 • FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

SAC METRO FIREFIGHTERS BRING RESCUED KITTY TO SACRAMENTO CAT HOSPITAL

Meet Blaze, a kitty rescued from a car engine on January 9 by the Sacramento Metro Fire Department. Blaze was caught in the fan belts of a car engine when the car was started. (When cold weather arrives, kitties will often seek out warm places, including car engines.) The caring fire department crew extracted Blaze and brought her in for life-saving treatment.



Thanks to those who donate to the Sacramento Cat Hospital Foundation Benevolent Fund, Blaze had surgery, which went well, and she is anticipated to make a full recovery! (To learn more about the Benevolent Fund, or to make a donation to assist with the cost of Blaze's surgery and ongoing medical treatment, please visit www.sacatfoundation.org.)

To view news clips from Channel 13 and Channel 10, please visit our Facebook page.

And just a reminder that before starting your car on a chilly morning, take a moment to thump on the hood to let sleeping cats know that it's time to vacate. Many injuries (including burns and fan belt accidents) can be avoided with this one simple thing. Please help keep kitties safe during this cooler season.

FELINE DENTAL DISEASE

To focus on the importance of oral health care for pets, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and several veterinary groups have designated February as National Pet Dental Health Month. The objective is to educate pet owners about the importance of proper dental hygiene for their pet, and that their pet needs regular dental checkups and cleanings, just like they do, to help ensure a healthy mouth and strong teeth.

A kitty's baby (deciduous) teeth begin to appear (erupt) right around 2-1/2 weeks of age; all of the baby teeth are in place by 6 months of age. Kittens begin to lose their teeth at approximately 3-1/2 months, just before permanent incisors begin to appear. All permanent teeth will erupt between 6 and 8 months of age. A kitten has 26 teeth; by 8 months of age, there are 30 permanent teeth.

Bad breath or drooling are just two signs that a kitty may be experiencing dental problems. Good oral healthcare can not only help keep your kitty happy by addressing painful dental abscess, cavities, or toothaches, it can also reduce the risk of serious secondary conditions. When teeth are not cleaned regularly, bacteria from plaque can enter your kitty's bloodstream and cause permanent damage to organs including the heart, heart valves, lungs, liver, and kidneys, reducing the life expectancy of your furry companion.

Your kitty can also experience a dental disease process, unique to felines, called resorptive lesions. With resorptive lesions, the body begins to re-absorb a diseased tooth. This is thought to be caused primarily by genetics, though nutrition and hygiene are often factors. Most domesticated cats are not able to fully resorb a tooth so it must be extracted. Extractions

are generally also needed if a kitty has abscessed or broken teeth or severe gum-line recession around the dentition (the teeth in the dental arch).

Prior to general anesthesia, which is necessary when we are extracting teeth, we will conduct a full examination plus pre-anesthetic labwork to evaluate metabolic function. Once any metabolic issues are addressed, we will schedule your cat's dental procedure. The procedure will include dental x-rays, dental cleaning, and extractions if needed. Aftercare typically includes dispensing antibiotics and pain medication at home, plus follow-up mouth evaluations at our office.

For good oral health care at home, we may recommend supplementing your kitty's regular diet with dental diets such as Hills t/d, Waltham d/d, or Purina DH. We may also recommend C.E.T. Chews which can help keep your kitty's breath fresh and teeth clean. OraVet Gel applied to the teeth once a week can help prevent tartar buildup. Plaque can build up in less than 30 hours, so brushing your cat's teeth once a day with enzymatic pet toothpaste can be the best way to break down plaque and kill bacteria.

We are here to help your kitty achieve a healthy mouth! To learn more about feline dental disease, or to schedule your cat's dental evaluation, please speak with one of our doctors or team members.

FEBRUARY SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR READERS

Through February 29, receive **\$20 off pre-anesthetic labwork** when you bring your kitty to the Sacramento Cat Hospital for a dental procedure. Please ask us for more information.

Don't miss an issue of our newsletter! Sign up to receive each month's issue by email. To subscribe, just go to www.sacramentocathospital.com, or speak with one of our team members.

Sacramento Cat Hospital • 4115 Manzanita Avenue, Carmichael • (916) 488-4161 • info@sacramentocathospital.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/SacramentoCatHospital