



YOUR CAT'S HEALTH, OUR PASSION • VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2 • FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL PET DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

To focus on the importance of pet dental hygiene, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has designated February as National Pet Dental Health Month. The initiative was created to encourage people to schedule regular dental appointments for their pets and, if recommended by their veterinarian, establish a regular dental care routine at home.

Veterinary dentistry, similar to human dentistry, includes preventive care, cleaning, repair, and extractions. According to the AVMA, periodontal disease is the most common dental condition in cats and dogs. Dental disease often happens below the gum line, so even though your pet's teeth may look healthy, damage may be occurring. Bad breath, drooling, reduced appetite, abnormal chewing, and swollen gums are just a few of the signs that your pet may be experiencing dental problems.

Advanced periodontal disease can cause severe problems for your kitty—it's not just the teeth that are affected. When teeth are not regularly cleaned, bacteria from plaque can enter your kitty's bloodstream and cause permanent damage to organs including the heart, lungs, liver, and kidneys. Feline stomatitis, a painful and severe oral inflammation, can extend into deeper tissue and even become life-threatening. Tooth resorption, another common condition, occurs when the surface layer of a tooth's root and the hard tissue just below the enamel gradually erode.

Annual oral examinations are key in diagnosing, treating, and even preventing serious medical issues like these. A thorough exam can identify potential problems such as plaque and tartar buildup, gingivitis,

periodontal disease, and fractured or abscessed teeth.

If your veterinarian recommends dental treatment after an exam, pre-anesthetic lab work will be conducted to evaluate metabolic function. (General anesthesia is typically required for most feline dental treatments.) Once any metabolic issues are addressed, your kitty will be scheduled for a dental procedure. At the Sacramento Cat Hospital, we offer advanced dentistry services, including digital dental x-rays, teeth cleaning and scaling, exodontics (extractions), and endodontics (root canals). Aftercare typically includes antibiotics and pain medication at home, plus follow-up oral evaluations at our office.

At home, your veterinarian may recommend supplementing your kitty's regular diet with special dental diets or chews to help keep teeth clean. Plaque can build up in less than 30 hours, so your veterinarian may also recommend brushing your cat's teeth (we can provide the supplies and instructions).

If it's been more than a year since your kitty's last dental evaluation, or if your cat is experiencing bad breath or any other symptom mentioned above, please call us to schedule an exam. After the exam, if your veterinarian recommends dental treatment, February is the perfect time to schedule the procedure—please see our special offer below for great savings!

THE IMPORTANCE OF MICROCHIPPING YOUR KITT

No matter how careful you are, sadly, sometimes pets get lost. Statistics show that one in three pets will become lost during their lifetime, and only 2 out of 100

lost, unidentified cats will find their way back home again. A microchip is a safe, effective, and invaluable tool that could help identify your cat should he or she ever go missing.

A microchip is a tiny computer chip and antenna enclosed in glass; it's about the size of a grain of rice. The chip stores a unique identification number that can be read with scanning equipment. When scanned, the microchip's unique ID number is transmitted by radio waves to the scanner, which is then looked up in a microchip registry so the pet's owner can be contacted.

It's fast and easy to microchip your kitty. The microchip is loaded into a special syringe; the needle is inserted just under your cat's skin between the shoulder blades. The entire procedure takes less than 10 seconds. To your kitty, it feels similar to receiving a vaccination. The microchip has no power supply to replace or moving parts to wear down, and typically lasts decades.

If your pet isn't already microchipped, please call us for more information or to make an appointment.



FEBRUARY SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR READERS

We're offering our readers fantastic savings this month!

Schedule your kitty's dental procedure by February 28, 2017 and you'll **receive a \$100 discount!** (The appointment may be made for any future date—but you must contact us by February 28 to schedule it.)

Please call us at (916) 488-4161 for more information or to make your appointment.

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.

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