

Scheduling the Appointment

Unlike other procedures, such as vaccinations, dental appointments **MUST** be scheduled in advance.

If you are scheduling your pet for a spay or neuter procedure, we encourage mentioning your interest in your pet's dental needs at the same time.

Please call our scheduler at 760.343.3477 ext 106.



If You Have More Questions...

Please feel free to look at the Frequently Asked Questions on our website:

www.animalsamaritans.org



Animal Samaritans SPCA Inc

72307 Ramon Road
Thousand Palms, CA 92276

Phone: 760-343-0837
Fax: 760-343-7480
Email: volunteer.animalsamaritans@gmail.com



*Improving the lives of
animals and people*

Preventing Chronic Disease: Pet Dental Services



Dental Services By Appointment Only !

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Improving Pet Wellness and Wellbeing: One Mouth at a Time

What is Dental Disease?



Periodontal (gum) disease is one of the most common conditions seen in pets today. The problem begins when plaque and tartar are allowed to build up on your pet's teeth.

Plaque harbors the

bacteria which can infect gum tissue and the roots of teeth resulting in disease and tooth loss. Besides the negative impact on oral health, bacteria can enter the blood stream through the large blood vessels located near the gums and teeth. At this stage, the organs with the highest blood flow are most susceptible to infections: lungs, heart, kidneys, liver and even the brain. Damage to these organs caused by infection can shorten the lives of pets.

Symptoms of dental disease

Since pets hide pain, dental disease often goes undetected and untreated. In a perfect world, our family pets could tell us where it hurts, when it hurts and how much it hurts. This isn't possible.

Symptoms are:

- Bad breath. This is not a cosmetic problem and should not be overlooked.
- Loss of appetite
- Chewing on one side, dropping food, chewing less on toys
- Drooling
- Lethargy
- Red or bloody gums
- Yellow or brown discoloration (tartar) on teeth
- Tooth loss
- Dogs that begin to rub their mouths or "paw" at them

What can be done to prevent my pet from developing dental disease?

Dental disease is progressive . It can be controlled but not cured. Early detection is essential in providing your pet with the best health possible. The following preventative measures will assist in your efforts to maintain healthy and happy pets.

1. Become familiar with the symptoms of dental disease.
2. Get your pet used to having his/her mouth handled and teeth examined. Daily brushing is ideal. This way you would notice any changes in your pet's mouth. Pay special attention to any changes in color and/or bad breath.
3. Schedule a time with Animal Samaritans to assess your pet's dental health. Call 760.343.3477 ext. 106.

What happens at my pet's dental appointment?

A dental appointment at Animal Samaritans is made up of two parts; a preliminary examination where bloodwork is taken and a treatment plan is developed; and a second appointment where the treatment plan is performed under general anesthesia .The anesthesia allows a complete evaluation and therapeutic treatment of your pet's teeth and gums. Just like at the human dentist's office, these appointments may need to happen on two separate days.

Typically, the treatment involves probing, scaling and polishing of the teeth. However, when there is dental disease that has progressed, more extensive treatment is performed. Once the veterinarian determines the condition of the pet's mouth and recommends the best course of treatment, the process can include:

- Scaling and Probing
- X-Rays
- Extractions
- Polishing

More complex treatment that may be indicated will be referred to a full service veterinarian.

