

# SWVH JANUARY NEWSLETTER:

## *Dental Disease in Dogs and Cats*

*Just as people should have regular dental checkups by their dentists, your pets need regular dental care by your veterinarian – who also has the pleasure of being your pet’s dentist!!*

### DENTAL EXAMS

Every complete physical exam done at Southwest Veterinary Hospital includes a thorough dental exam. We also recommend a home care plan to help keep your pet’s mouth and teeth healthy. If a cleaning is needed, pre-anesthetic blood work can confirm that your pet is at low risk for complications from anesthesia.

### PROFESSIONAL DENTAL CLEANING

If needed, ultrasonic scaling of your pet’s teeth and polishing will occur under carefully monitored anesthesia. Antibiotics and pain medication may be dispensed if required.



*Missy’s teeth before professional dental cleaning*



*Missy’s teeth after professional dental cleaning*

### DENTAL X-RAYS

Only a portion of a tooth is visible above the gum line. SWVH uses digital dental X-rays to show what we cannot see – the tooth’s structure below the gums and the bone that anchors it – and therefore treat appropriately.



Marked bone loss around distal root of mandibular fourth premolar



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## {SIGNS OF DENTAL PROBLEMS}

BAD BREATH  
YELLOW-BROWN CRUSTS ON TEETH  
RED OR BLEEDING GUMS  
CHANGE IN CHEWING OR EATING HABITS  
LOOSE, CHIPPED, BROKEN OR MISSING TEETH  
CHANGE IN BEHAVIOR  
DROOLING

IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE SIGNS – CALL SWVH FOR AN APPOINTMENT

### HOME DENTAL CARE

Daily brushing of your pets' teeth is the very best way to help your pet avoid plaque accumulation – which is the first abnormality leading to dental disease. SWVH will demonstrate how to brush your dogs' or cats' teeth. It is not difficult to do and owners are surprised how well their pets tolerate their teeth being brushed. Many pets actually enjoy it!

Other home care options available at SWVH: special food designed to remove plaque, using treats shown to remove plaque, and/or applying an anti-plaque sealant.

*Sincerely,*

***The Doctors and Staff of Southwest Veterinary Hospital***



### USEFUL WEBSITES:

[WWW.SWVHRENO.COM](http://WWW.SWVHRENO.COM)

[WWW.PETDENTAL.COM](http://WWW.PETDENTAL.COM)

[WWW.ORAVET.COM](http://WWW.ORAVET.COM)

## SWVH February Promotion

*During the month of February, Dental Care Kits will be given free of charge with professional dental cleanings – which will include goodies for home dental care. The Dental Care Kits will include a toothbrush, dog/cat toothpaste (fluoride free), samples of anti-plaque treat/food, and oravet (anti-plaque sealant).*

*If you are interested, please call to schedule an appointment for your pet's dental care and health!*