



HOW DOES YOUR PET'S MOUTH LOOK?

Dental disease is a silent process that may cause many other illnesses, including kidney, heart, and blood infections. When pets don't receive the dental care they need to keep their teeth clean and their gums healthy, their mouths can harbor bad bacteria. Tooth loss, bone loss, and severe dental pain may result. The extent of dental disease present in a cat or dog is not always obvious. A thorough dental exam while under anesthesia (during a dental cleaning) is required to probe each individual tooth and assess for pockets, cavities, malocclusions, and other problems that may require treatment.



Stage 1

Here is a relatively healthy mouth with minimal gum inflammation and plaque buildup. Dental cleanings performed at this stage PREVENT deep seated dental disease and infections from occurring. The need for tooth extraction is unlikely, but possible.



Stage 2

Severe gum inflammation with some gum recession. Bone loss is starting to occur around infected tooth roots. Significant dental disease is present. A dental cleaning is necessary to TREAT disease. Tooth extractions may be necessary. The mouth is likely uncomfortable



Stage 3

Severe gum inflammation with more advanced gum recession and root exposure. More bone of the jaw has been lost and teeth may be loose. Teeth extractions are likely necessary. This condition is painful.



Stage 4

This mouth is full of pus, bacteria, and disease. The teeth are very loose and may even be falling out. The gums are severely inflamed and infected. The roots are infected and exposed. There is advanced loss of bone surrounding the tooth roots. Tooth extractions are needed. This condition is very painful.

Initial _____