

DENTAL AWARENESS

Dental Disease is the Number One health problem for older dogs and cats!

- I. Clean teeth for your pet will lead to:
 - Fewer lost teeth
 - Prevention of gingivitis and abscesses
 - Fewer general health problems, especially of the heart and kidneys
- II. Why use sedation/anesthesia:
 - To fully inspect mouth, teeth and gums
 - To scale thoroughly, especially on the inner sides of the teeth
 - To more fully polish
 - To provide a more thorough cleaning
- III. A Summit Veterinary Hospital Dental:
 - Please withhold food for twelve hours prior to bringing your pet to the clinic
 - Pre-op panel to check kidney and liver functions and avoid problems with sedatives (optional) (For pets over the age of 7 it is **STRONGLY** recommended.)
 - Sedation is induced, the pet is placed on a mix of oxygen and isoflurane for maintenance
 - Gums are probed to check for pockets and root exposure
 - Any pockets are injected directly with antibiotic to prevent infection
 - Scaling is done manually to break off large pieces of tartar
 - Detail scaling is done with an ultrasonic scaler
 - Teeth are polished to remove ridges and rough spots (a smooth surface is much more resistant to tartar)
 - Mouth is rinsed with an antibacterial solution
 - Nails are trimmed
 - Ears are checked and cleaned
 - Anal glands are checked and expressed if necessary
- IV. If you start with clean teeth, pet owners can help maintain them by:
 - Brushing at least two times a week
 - Using special “dental” food
 - Providing enzymatic chews
 - Using a mouth rinse

CLEAN TEETH HELP PROMOTE THE OVERALL HEALTH OF YOUR PET!