



The Vet Centre

WAIPU | RUAWAI | MANGAWHAI | MAUNGATUROTO | RUAKĀKĀ



August/September
2024

Why Dental Health is so Important?

Dental Health

Oral health is as vitally important to our pet's wellbeing as it is to ours. The statistics state that between 70-80% of our pets over the age of 3 have some form of dental disease.

Dental disease is painful and can be very debilitating for our pets. It can be easily overlooked as our pets are very good at masking pain. Often, it's not until the problem becomes obvious, such as reluctance to eat or a swollen face that it is noticed.

Many owners comment after a dental procedure how much happier their pets are and often see a significant improvement in their quality of life. This highlights how debilitating chronic oral pain can be.

Dental health can also impact the health of other organs in the body. In dental disease, bacteria can be circulated in the bloodstream and lodge in other organs causing infection and disease.

What is dental disease?

Dental disease also known as periodontal disease occurs when plaque builds up on the teeth. Plaque is a clear sticky substance composed of food particles, saliva and bacteria. It adheres to the teeth after eating. If it isn't removed after 24 hours, it will harden and calcify into tartar. Tartar is also known as calculus

can only be removed safely with a dental treatment (i.e. scale and polish) under a general anaesthetic.

Tartar allows bacteria to flourish and leads to gingivitis (early-stage gum disease) with inflammation, pain and bleeding gums. If untreated, this then leads to periodontal disease. This is an advanced stage of gum disease and the gums become more painful, inflamed and recede.



Michelle Stodart
BVSc
Mixed Animal Vet

Eventually, bone is lost, and teeth can become loose and fall out.

Signs of Dental Disease

Dental disease often occurs gradually, and signs can be difficult to notice in the early stages. Pets often don't stop eating until dental →

15% OFF Dental work*



*Offer excludes pre anaesthetic bloods. Offer ends 31st August. Spaces are limited so call to book.



← disease is very severe or painful, so this is not a good indication of dental health. Below are some of the signs to be on the lookout for.

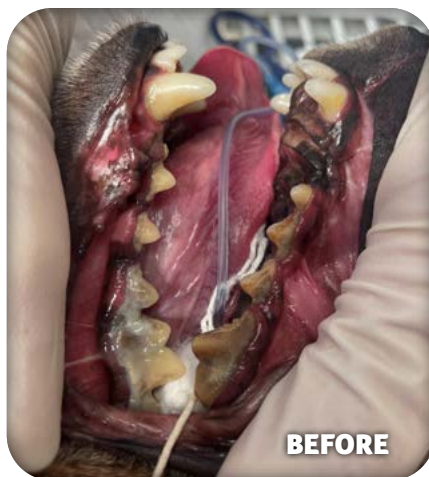
- Red gums +/- bleeding gums
- Plaque and tartar build-up on teeth
- Halitosis (smelly breath)
- Gum recession
- Drooling
- Loose teeth
- Facial swelling
- Reluctance to chew or eat
- Pawing at mouth
- Changes in behaviour/activity

Prevention of Dental Disease

Prevention is always better than cure. Regular clinic visits to allow dental checks are an important aspect of maintaining good oral health. Problems can start from an early age such as retained deciduous teeth. Scheduled dental maintenance and early interventions are much less invasive and painful for our pets. Regular cleaning is important with daily tooth brushing the gold standard.

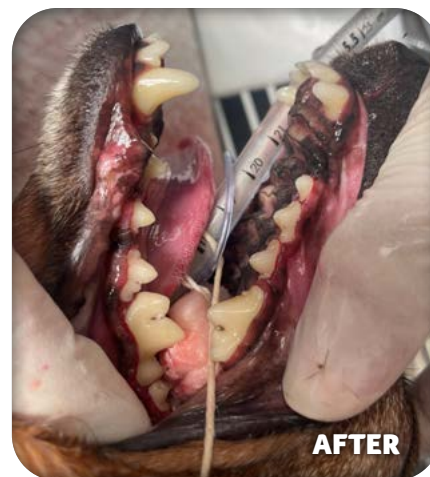
Below are the steps that can be taken to reduce the occurrence of dental disease in our pets.

- **Regular Dental Checks** – To assess for tartar accumulation, gingivitis, periodontal disease and broken teeth. Advice on any required dental treatments and development of at home maintenance care plans.
- **Daily Tooth Brushing** – The gold standard to prevent plaque build-up and dental disease. Beginning this early in life can be the key to establish it as a normal routine part of everyday life. Using pet specific toothpaste and gradually and gently introducing tooth brushing helps older pets adjust to the idea



- **Appropriate Food** – Feeding dry food vs wet can reduce the build-up of plaque and special veterinary dental diets are available to help prevent plaque build-up. These diets work by encouraging chewing and have a brushing effect on the teeth.

- **Dental Chews** – Encouraging pets to chew on appropriate toys or dental chews can help increase saliva production and reduce plaque build-up.



- **Dental Treatment** – Existing dental disease can be treated with tartar removed with a scale and polish under a general anaesthetic and then preventative measures put in place.

Please contact your local Vet Centre Northland clinic to book a dental checkup for your pet.



RECEIVE A **FREE***
BLANKET WHEN YOU
PURCHASE METACAM®

*T&C's apply. See product label for full claim details and directions for use. ACVM No's. A007550, A009631, A009630. RVM. Available only under a veterinary authorization. NZ-CAN-0026-2024. *While stocks last. Offer only applies to Metacam Oral Dog purchases.



How to brush your pet's teeth

1. What you need:

- Pet or baby toothbrush
- Pet toothpaste
- Treats!

***NOTE:** DO NOT use human toothpaste or baking soda to brush your pet's teeth. These are made with ingredients that can cause stomach upsets if swallowed.

2. Allow your pet to become comfortable with you touching their mouth.

- Give their muzzle a light rub with your finger
- Gently touch/rub their teeth and gums
- Do this over a few days before you begin brushing their teeth.

3. Give them a taste of the toothpaste and show them the toothbrush

- This will encourage your pet not to be afraid of this new activity.

4. Choose the right moment

- When you are both relaxed
- Give you and our pet plenty of time
- Make it an enjoyable experience
- Get down to their level.

5. Start with the easiest-to-reach teeth until you are both more confident.

- Brush your pet's teeth in small circles
- Brush all the inside and outside surfaces as well as across the entire gum line to remove daily plaque build-up
- Work up to at least 30 seconds of brushing for each side.

***NOTE:** Call your clinic if you notice any problems as you brush, like red or bleeding gums or bad

breath. The earlier problems are found, the easier they may be to treat.

6. Aim to brush your pet's teeth every 1-2 days.

7. After each session, reward your pet.

- This will associate tooth brushing with a positive memory.



HELPFUL HINTS

- Be patient
- Give lots of praise
- Remember to always put a small amount of toothpaste on your finger or toothbrush
- Reward your pet with treats at the end of each session.
- Stop immediately if there is any sign of aggression
- Human toothpaste is for humans, not pets
- Remember, always make it fun!

**FREE
WORMING TABLET***

**WITH EVERY
BRAVECTO CHEW
FOR DOGS**

WHILE STOCKS LAST!



*Offer ends 31st August 2024.

*This is a promotion run by the clinic displaying this promotion. Refer to staff for full terms and conditions, including promotion period. ACVM No: A011019 Bravecto chew.



Aristotle the brave chicken

This is Aristotle, a brave wee chicken who was seen by us on afterhours after a dog attack. She had a large skin laceration over her left chest/breast muscle and a few other smaller skin wounds. Luckily, her owners were happy to go ahead with stitching her up and giving her the best chance at recovery! Some skin sutures were placed while under anaesthesia, and she was sent home on pain relief with a beautiful E-collar and some bandaging over the wound. In two short weeks she has been healing up well after being cared for by her wonderful parents! Throughout the whole process Aristotle has been a superstar and won over the hearts of the Mangawhai clinic team!

Celebrating Maori language week

Can you name any animals in Te Reo?

Here are some to start you off with to celebrate Maori Language Week (16-23 September)



Dog
Kuri



Guinea Pig
Kinipoaka



Cat
Ngeru



Chicken
Heihei



Kitten
Punua



Lamb
Reme



Rabbit
Rapeti



Cow
Kau

15% off

Black Hawk Puppy all bag sizes*

Save more than \$35 on a 20kg bag[^]



[^]Based on the standard RRP of Black Hawk Puppy 20kg
*This promotion runs in August 2024, while stocks last.
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BlackHawk
PUPPY

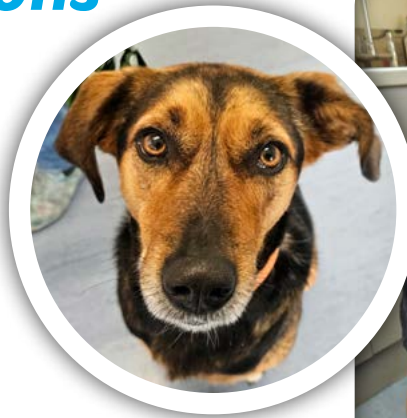


Nurse Consultations

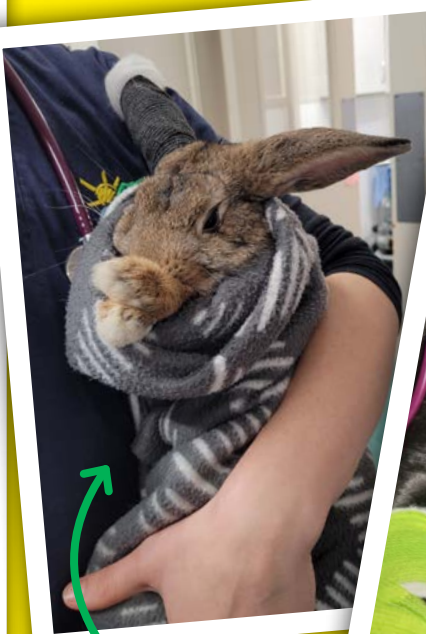
Did you know that our clinics have a team of qualified veterinary nurses that can offer a wide range of services?

THESE INCLUDE:

- Free dental checks
- Vaccinations
- Nail clips
- Anal gland expression
- Flea and worm treatment
- Regular monthly injectable medications
- Suture/Staple removal
- Post-operative checks
- Microchipping
- Weight-loss plans
- Ear cleaning
- Medication administration
- Dressing changes
- Training & behavioural advice.



Cute pets from the past month



Osaka came in for neutering



A Wandering Angel's pup post neutering.

Vinnie and Bean with their cool collars after desexing.



Wally and Moss giving/receiving blood after rat bait ingestion. Check out our Facebook post about these two at <https://www.facebook.com/VetCentreNorthland/>





Tartan Parade 2024 Winners

Bruce
Small Dog Winner



Grace
Medium Dog Winner



Remi
Large Dog Winner



Tintin & Oreo
Original Outfit Winners



Penny & Amigo
Overall Winners



Ellie
Horse Winner



Waipu Clinic

53 The Centre
Waipu
P 09 432 0693

Opening Hours

Mon-Fri: 8.00am-5.00pm
Saturdays:
9.00am-12.30pm

Ruawai Clinic

23 Jellicoe Road
Ruawai
P 09 439 2506

Opening Hours

Mon-Fri: 8.30am-12.30pm
1:00pm-4:30pm
Saturdays: CLOSED

Mangawhai Clinic

36 Moir St
Mangawhai
P 09 431 4535

Opening Hours

Mon-Fri: 8.00am - 5.00pm
Saturdays:
9.00am - 12:30pm

Maungaturoto Clinic

184 Hurndall St
Maungaturoto
P 09 431 8318

Opening Hours

Mon-Fri: 8.00am - 5.00pm
Saturdays: CLOSED

Ruakākā Clinic

385 Marsden Point Road
Ruakākā
P 09 433 4916

Opening Hours

Mon-Thurs: 8.00am - 5.00pm
Saturdays: CLOSED