

Schumacher Veterinary Clinic

February is National Dental Health!



We've gotten smarter...

Preventative dental care is very important to your dog or cat's overall health.

As humans, we know how important regular visits to our own dentist are. Good dental health is strongly correlated with better cardiovascular function, healthier organ function, and, of course...being a better kisser! Annual dental checks and routine cleanings are important for your pet.

1

STAY POSITIVE

Start a brushing routine with lots of positive reinforcement-petting/treats/praise!

2

START SLOWLY

Start with just a tooth or two, we can gradually work up to the whole mouth!

3

MAKE IT A HABIT

Routine brushing 2-3 times per week can have a huge impact!



Dental chews!

Pets should always be supervised. No chews too hard to dent with your nail.



Dogs with jobs!

Working canines, sporting dogs and athletes all rely on good dental health!



Brushing helps!

We can help you find an appropriate brush and toothpaste!

Better technology

Dental radiography helps detect problems early on.

Just like when we visit the dentist, once sedated, your pet's dental procedure starts with full mouth x-rays. The crown, or the portion of tooth above the gumline, is easily visible with the naked eye, but the complex root structure under the gums is not. Infection and other types of periodontal disease will often begin with more subtle changes beneath the gums. When found earlier with routine dental x-rays, these problems may be addressed without extraction. Dental x-rays also help us to determine if a tooth should be extracted or not. Some cracks and fractures are visible in the crown, others cannot be detected without x-ray. Regular dental x-rays in a healthy pet also help us to establish a baseline and monitor for progression or other changes over time.

Once x-rays are complete, we use an ultrasonic scaler to clean your pet's teeth and then polish them up nice and shiny!



Concerns about anesthesia

It is very normal to be concerned when your pet is sedated—trust us, we take this responsibility seriously!! Pre-operative bloodwork, safe anesthetic protocols, extensive monitoring, IV fluid support and warming blankets all help us to keep your pet as safe as possible.

Your doctor is more than happy to discuss any of your concerns, so please do not hesitate to ask any questions. We want to be sure all our patients are well taken care of <3

THE SKINNY ON DOG BREATH

Although we joke about dog and cat breath, it's a serious health problem. Halitosis—that's the medical term for bad breath—is really you being able to smell the bacteria growing in your pet's mouth. This isn't healthy for them overall and can have many long term consequences to their health. The plaque that dogs and cats accumulate is called calculus—because it actually mineralizes on the tooth. While brushing can help keep more from accumulating, existing calculus can only be removed via ultrasonic scaling. Please help us stay up with routine dental exams and cleanings for your pet!

