

# Dental Care For Your Dog

## *The Main Dental Problems Found in Dogs*

### *Shedding Multiple Milk Teeth at the One Time*

When puppies shed many milk teeth they may get mild digestive upsets but recover quickly.

### *Retained Milk Teeth*

The retained teeth must be removed to avoid bite problems and gum disease. Food is trapped in these teeth and may cause infection. This is common in small breeds.

### *Objects Wedged in Teeth*

This is common and the dog will show signs of discomfort

### *Broken and Worn Teeth*

Common in dogs that chase tennis balls or sticks. Do not cause problems unless roots of teeth are involved.

### *Gum Disease and Periodontal Disease*

Gum disease occurs when plaque which is saliva and food particles stick to the teeth and calcify into calculus. It is the calculus that forms under the gum line and eventually destroys the gums and bone which result in teeth loss.

*If gum disease is not treated then heart and kidney disease can follow.*



Healthy Mouth



Advanced Periodontal Disease



## *How Can Gum Disease Be Prevented?*

- ♦ Include raw bones (oxtail and knuckle bones are optimal) in your dog's diet.
- ♦ Giving large raw carrots to dogs to aid dental hygiene; also good for environmental enrichment.
- ♦ Feed meat in large chunks (not minced meat).
- ♦ Daily Brushing of teeth.
- ♦ There are chew aids on the market, your vet may be able to recommend some.
- ♦ Yearly checkups with your vet; these may be needed more frequently as your dog gets older.
- ♦ Follow veterinary advice.
- ♦ A daily inspection routine of your dog helps you identify possible problems early.

For more information go to Petalia [http://www.petalia.com.au/templates\\_process.cfm?specie=Dog&story\\_no=2123](http://www.petalia.com.au/templates_process.cfm?specie=Dog&story_no=2123)

## *Signs of Gum Disease*

- ⇒ Bad breath
- ⇒ Bleeding gums
- ⇒ Receding gums
- ⇒ Loose teeth
- ⇒ Unable to chew
- ⇒ Pawing the mouth

