



## Pet Dental Health Month Specials

Why is dental health important for dogs and cats? Just as in people, plaque build-up eventually leads to cement-like tartar and periodontal disease. Bacteria, living in the plaque and tartar along the gum margins of the tooth, cause periodontal disease. These bacteria erode away the gums and eventually break down the ligaments that hold the tooth in place. They can cause painful tooth root abscesses as well as invade the bloodstream. Once in an animal's blood, the bacteria settle out on heart valves causing valvular endocarditis, liver, and kidney disease. Small breeds of dogs are particularly prone to tartar, periodontal disease, and secondary heart disease as they age. Cats more commonly develop kidney disease as a result of poor dental health.

If dental disease is caught early enough, a basic scaling and polishing will restore their teeth to a healthy state. This always requires anesthesia for pets, so the tartar can be thoroughly removed below the gum line by scaling with special instruments, and then teeth must be polished to smooth the surface of the tooth to slow the build-up of new plaque and tartar. Sometimes antibiotics will be used to treat infections around teeth and prevent the need for extractions. If the infection has eroded away most of the dental ligament holding the tooth into the jaw causing a painful, loose tooth, then extraction is usually inevitable.

To clean your pets teeth requires them to go under anesthesia. By doing a pre anesthetic exam and bloodwork we can make this procedure safer for your pet. The bloodwork would give us a good indication of liver and kidney function, make sure your pet isn't diabetic or hypoglycemic, anemic or dehydrated. Bloodwork should be done ahead of time but no longer than 1 month before the dental cleaning. We will be offering discounted exams and bloodwork during the month of January. Please call and schedule early as our schedule fills up quickly!



	<b>Special Price* During February 2012</b>
<b>Cats</b>	
No teeth needing extractions	\$100
Some teeth needing extracting	\$200
<b>Dogs</b>	
No teeth needing extractions	\$120
Some teeth needing extracting-simple uncomplicated extractions	\$200
Some teeth needing extracting (complex/Surgical extractions)	\$300

\*We must exam all pets prior to any dental procedure, we prefer to do this at a separate visit at which time we can do pre-anesthetic bloodwork if needed or chosen. Please give us a call for prices on exams and bloodwork.

\*Special price for dentals during February 2012 includes anesthesia, ultrasonic scaling (cleaning) of teeth, in depth exam of teeth while under anesthesia, polishing of teeth, and hospitalization for the day. For pets requiring extractions, they will also receive fluids during the procedure, appropriate pain medication and antibiotics.

\*Unfortunately, we may not be able to tell whether or not your pet needs extractions until performing the dental procedure.

More information can be found on our website or feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

### **MWV Mobile Veterinary Clinic**

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