

## **Dental Health in Cats**

Cats need dental care just like humans do. Oral disease is the most frequently diagnosed infectious disease in cats.

- By the time they are 4 years old, 85% of all cats show signs of dental disease.
- If left untreated your cat can:
  - Have severe pain (even though they don't always act like it)
  - Bad breath
  - Tooth loss
- Chronic infection cannot only affect the mouth, but also, all the major organs (example: heart, liver, kidneys).
- Brushing your cat's teeth is the best way to keep their mouths healthy just like yours.
- Tarter forms on teeth every 36 hours. After it forms it won't come off unless the cat has an ultrasonic cleaning and polish.
- Daily brushing will minimize the trips to the veterinary hospital for these cleanings.
- Use a toothbrush (child size) and toothpaste formulated for pets. Cats will not spit out the toothpaste, so it is important to use a special enzymatic toothpaste just for pets.
- Brush their teeth primarily paying the most attention to the outer side of the teeth. The tarter forms the worst on the grinding teeth, the premolars and molars.

Anyone at your veterinary hospital, local pet store and/or animal shelter can help you get started.

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