



Keeping Your Pet's Teeth Healthy

Bad breath isn't just annoying. It is a sign of a serious health issue.

Cats and dogs do eat smelly foods, but that is not what causes bad breath. An odor in your cat or dog's mouth is an early indicator of dental disease, the most common disease in pets.

Dogs and cats accumulate tartar on their teeth just like people do. And just like people, they accumulate tartar at different rates.

Look at your pet's teeth. They should be white and clean and appear smooth. If your pet's teeth are no longer white and show evidence of yellow or brownish build-up or a pit-like mark on the surface, your pet needs a professional dental cleaning.

A professional dental cleaning begins with an anesthetized patient. At Richland Animal Hospital, we require pre-anesthesia bloodwork to insure that your pet is healthy enough to undergo anesthesia and to decrease the possibility of any complications.

While your pet is under anesthesia, the teeth will be scaled with an ultrasonic cleaner and polished with a fluoride treatment. Digital x-rays of the molars and any discolored or mobile teeth will also be taken in order to determine the extent of damage. Extractions may be necessary if the tooth is abscessed or cracked under the gums.

Untreated dental problems are linked to heart, liver and kidney disease, and, more importantly, undiagnosed pain in your pet.

We here at Richland Animal Hospital believe prevention is the best medicine. We invite you to join us in celebrating National Pet Dental Health Month this February. **Schedule today and save 10% off your pet's dental cleaning in February and March 2015.**

Tips for Keeping Your Pet's Teeth in Tip-Top Shape

*Daily tooth brushing is the best way to keep your pet's mouth healthy. Ten-year-old Oscar, right, keeps his teeth pearly white by brushing twice a day with the help of his owners.

*Daily oral hygiene rinses, dental diets like T/D, water additives and safe chews recommended by your veterinarian will also help keep your pet's mouth clean.

