



# Best Friends Veterinary Group Newsletter

SUMMER 2015

**Just like humans, pets teeth need regular care and attention to keep them healthy, so we thought we'd talk a little bit about pet dental care to help you keep your pets teeth in tip top condition.**

## **Which pets suffer with dental problems?**

Smaller breeds of dogs are more prone to require dental assistance in the form of veterinary cleaning than larger breeds due to their small, close together teeth. This also makes cats equally likely to need a little bit of expert help every now and again.

However, any pet with teeth can have dental issues regardless of size or breed. The good news though is that nowadays we can do lots of things to encourage healthy teeth and gums for our pet cats, dogs, rabbits and even other small furries.

## **Brushing Your Pets Teeth**

If your pet will let you, daily brushing is the best way to prevent dental disease. Some pets will quite happily tolerate having their teeth brushed regularly, especially if it has been introduced when they are young, however many are not so compliant.

If your pet will let you brush their teeth, ensure you use pet specific toothpaste as human toothpaste for example contains fluoride which is toxic to dogs. For an in depth guide on how to brush a dogs teeth visit [www.pedigree.com/dentalcare/](http://www.pedigree.com/dentalcare/)

## **Food, Treats & Toys**

If your pet experiences dental problems your Vets will be able to recommend suitable diets with specific teeth cleaning properties to help reduce the need for repeat treatment.



## **Pet Dental Care Tips**

Regularly providing dental treats can also help, as long as they are appropriate for your pets species, breed and size. Good quality dental treats are designed so that even if your pet devours them in seconds, your pet will have to chew them before they can swallow. It is the chewing of these treats that reduces tartar build up on teeth, so however rapidly they chew they will still get the benefit of having them.

Provide toys with a variety of different textures and discourage the chewing of wood and sticks as this can cause damage to gums.

## **Special Offers**

May & June

**10% off**

Dental procedures\*

**25% off**

purchases of Royal Canin Obesity & Satiety food range

**Puppy & Kitten Packs  
Save up to 20% off**

your puppy or kittens initial vaccination course, flea and worming treatments

\*not available in conjunction with any other offers

## Smelly Breath

Bad breath in pets is often caused by the bad smelling bacteria that comes with gum disease, although it can also be an indicator of abscesses or kidney problems. Whilst there are products that will help mask the smell, to truly resolve the issue you should visit your Vets to find out what the underlying issue is and how to resolve it.

## Behaviour

Toothache is a painful thing regardless of species, however without the evidence of a broken tooth or smelly breath, it is difficult for pets to tell us that this is the issue. Gum disease is equally painful and can lead to tooth loss.

If your pet goes off their food or exhibits behaviour that is not normal for them, such as being antisocial or aggressive, it may be that they are experiencing pain and a trip to the Vets for further investigation of possible causes is required.

## Scale & Polish

Plaque is both the cause of gum disease and reason for tartar build up. Once these are present the only way to get rid of them is for pets to have a scale and polish under general anaesthetic. This is a minor procedure with pets returning home the same day.

A Big Thank You to Zoetis who have helped make this newsletter possible.

## Surgery Numbers

Billericay	01277 651009	Peterborough, Broadway	
Chatteris	01354 692309		01733 562904
Dagenham	0208 595 5818	Rainham	01708 555788
Holbeach	01406 426222	Romford	01708 762266
Isle of Dogs	0207 536 7555	South Woodham Ferrers	
Leicester	01162 517677		01245 321717
March	01354 653435	Shenfield	01277 221193
Mile End	0207 790 4599	Whittlesey	01733 208090
Milton Keynes	01908 270144	Yaxley	01733 243000
Oakhill	0208 527 0034		

[www.bestfriendsgroup.com](http://www.bestfriendsgroup.com)



**ROYAL CANIN**

# 25% OFF

## Royal Canin weight loss diets\*



**FREE WEIGHT CHECKS**



Ask at reception for further details

\*May & June 2015



## Coping with Pet Travel Sickness

1 in 6 dogs suffer from travel sickness. Here are our tips should your pet be one of the unlucky ones.

- Feed pets well in advance of travelling
- Slightly open windows in the vehicle
- Take regular breaks on long journeys, make fresh water available and allow dogs to walk around outside
- If possible encourage your pet to look out of the front or rear window, put cat baskets on the top of the parcel shelf for example. This will allow them to fix on a distant object (such as the horizon) which should reduce feelings of nausea
- Speak to your Vet about medication, there is now a non drowsy tablet that can be prescribed that dogs may benefit from taking
- Stay calm and be positive, your pet will then start to associate travelling as a positive experience, reducing anxiety