



PET PAGES

Official Yellow Pages for Animal Lovers

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Pet Pages – For the South West Florida Edition

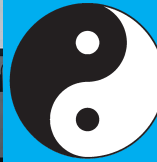
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Acupuncture Article to Follow

Just like people, pets need dental care too. The majority of our canine and feline patients will begin to have some form of dental disease by 3 years of age.

The best way to get started to ensure your pet has a healthy mouth is through routine examinations. During an exam your pet's oral cavity will be evaluated for dental disease. This exam includes but is not limited to checking for gingivitis, periodontal disease, fractured teeth, loose teeth, tumors or abscesses. Untreated dental disease can be harmful to your pet which makes early detection of dental disease imperative. If dental disease is left untreated, it may also affect your pet's kidney, liver or heart.

Once your pet's oral health is determined, they may need a dental cleaning. A dental cleaning involves your pet going under general anesthesia. Anesthesia provides veterinarians the ability to complete a full dental scale and polish along with the ability to perform dental

x-rays or extraction of teeth if needed. Anesthesia also ensures your pet will be free of discomfort, pain or fear during the process.

After a dental cleaning is performed, it is important to maintain your pet's oral health. Preventative measures for dental disease include brushing your pet's teeth, using dental products that are V.O.H.C certified (Veterinary Oral Health Council), such as dental chews/treats, prescription diets and water additives. Routine dental cleanings are also encouraged as a preventative measure.

If you notice a foul smell coming from your pet's mouth, difficulty chewing or swallowing, pain around the mouth, reduced appetite, change in behavior or excessive drooling or bleeding from the mouth, then it is time to bring your pet in for an exam.

Loving Paws Animal Hospital
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Approved By _____ Date _____

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