

FOR THE LOVE OF CATS

THE NEWSLETTER OF FELINE SPECIALTIES



4 Signs of Dental Pain in Cats

By Dr. Judy Zinn DVM

Your cat can't tell you when it is suffering from a toothache or other types of pain. If you notice any of these signs, contact us to schedule a dental exam.

1. **No signs at all.**

Cats rarely show signs of dental pain. This is a survival mechanism, an instinctual behavior that our domesticated cats have in common with their wild ancestors.

2. **Bad breath.**

The odor is a by product of bacteria metabolism. In cats with dental disease, there is more bacteria in the mouth and so the odor increases. Bad breath or "tuna breath" in cats is not normal and needs to be evaluated.

3. **Altered behavior.**

Chewing on one side of the mouth, dropping food, running away from the food dish, hiding, not grooming themselves and acting "grumpy" are all signs of dental pain. You know your cat better than anyone, so look for abnormal behaviors.

4. **Bleeding.**

Bleeding from the mouth is usually due to severe, advanced dental disease. It could also be evidence of fractured teeth, lacerations or ulcers on the tongue or gum tissue or the presence of an oral mass. Look for thick, ropery saliva or spots of blood on bedding or in the food or water dish.

Once we address your cat's dental issues and resolve the source of the pain, your cat's behavior should return to normal. But be warned, he may show he is feeling better by seeking extra attention :).

WHAT'S INVOLVED IN CLEANING MY CAT'S TEETH?

- Pre-anesthetic bloodwork.
- Administration of gas anesthesia.
- Monitors attached to watch vital signs.
- Each tooth is scaled free of tartar and plaque.
- Teeth and gums are examined by Drs.
- Teeth are polished and fluoride is applied.
- Clenz-A-Dent, a protective wax film, is applied to prevent future plaque and tartar build up.
- Recovery is closely monitored and pain medications are administered if needed.

WHY USE ANESTHESIA?

When you go to the dentist, you know that what's being done is meant to help you and keep your mouth healthy. Your pet does not understand the benefit of dental procedures, and he or she reacts by moving, trying to escape, or even biting.

Anesthesia makes it possible to perform the dental procedures with less stress and pain for your pet. In addition, anesthesia allows for a better cleaning because your pet is not moving around and risking injury from the dental equipment. Although anesthesia will always have risks, it's safer now than ever and continues to improve so that the risks are very low and are far outweighed by the benefits.

DENTAL SPECIAL

DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY WE WILL BE OFFERING **15% OFF ALL TEETH CLEANINGS.**

Each kitty that has their teeth cleaned will also receive a free comb out and bag full of dental food and treats.

RESERVE NOW!

Spring Break is just around the corner. Don't forget to book your boarding room, we fill up quickly!



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for all of the latest clinic happenings!

HOURS

Monday - Friday 7:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday 9:00am - noon

Sunday 9:00am - 9:30am (drop offs and pick ups)

9702 Riverside Dr.

CONTACT INFO

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