



# PVPC Newsletter



February 2025 Issue

Don't forget! We here at PVPC are offering a 20% discount on all dental services for the entire month of February. Call (530)644-2424 today to get started on scheduling your pet to have a dental procedure with us!



## THE OH SO SCARY CHORE OF ORAL HYGIENE



As much as we all hate to admit it, dental care in our pets tends to be something we overlook on a daily basis. The question is why do we allow ourselves to brush off something that is considered an integral part to maintaining good health in our pets? We believe the biggest hold up is the widespread fear of the climbing costs to perform a fully anesthetized dental procedure. Look, we totally get it! The price for such a large procedure can be really, really scary and we can see why it reverts pet owners to the mindset that dental care isn't required to keep their pets happy and healthy. The reality is keeping up on our pets' oral hygiene is necessary to prevent many health conditions in the future of all animals. But, how do we get around the cost of such a thing? Psst! Here's a little secret. At home routine oral care does help!

Now, you may be thinking that there is no way you can brush your dog's teeth let alone your cat's teeth every single day. Believe us when we say we know this chore comes with its own challenges and it may not always be possible to accomplish. So, the good news is in veterinary medicine we are always producing new ideas and new products that are designed to better fit each individual patient and their owner's lifestyle. We recommend checking [vohc.org](http://vohc.org) for advice on the best veterinary products.



To start, there are many treats and toys out there that were created with animal oral health in mind. Of course, the most important thing to keep in mind when choosing to stick to this route of dental care is to make sure you're purchasing veterinary recommended items as well as the appropriate size for your pet. Oftentimes, dental treats and/or dental toys are purchased in too small of a size which reduces the act of chewing and scrubbing of the teeth and gums. Not only are

incorrect sizes pointless in preventing dental disease, but they can also pose as choking hazards. Additionally, there are many toys and/or chewing items that can be more damaging to the teeth than not such as antlers, bones, nylon toys, etc. To be sure you're not putting your pet's teeth at risk it's always recommended you do some research before you purchase such items. If your pet is not typically a chewer or if you don't think dental treats and/or toys are the best fit for your pet then there are other at home dental care options to choose from.

In veterinary medicine, good oral health in our patients is so very important to us that we have created several other products that fight against plaque build up on both dogs and cats teeth. There are dental sprays or gels that can easily be applied to a pet's mouth. The antimicrobial agents within these products are the culprits to reducing tartar from building up in an animal's mouth. Dental wipes are also helpful in reducing the buildup of plaque if they are used regularly. If having your hands inside your pet's mouth is just as difficult as brushing the teeth then there are products such as water additives that work just as well in reducing the teeth from having rapid tartar build up.



Lastly, it is important to understand that although maintaining regular at home dental care does help a pet's overall oral health, it however is not a "cure all" nor does it mean an animal will never have to undergo a fully anesthetized dental cleaning. Similarly to human dentistry, at home dental care only assists in limiting the frequency that an animal may be recommended to have a full dental procedure. Even then there are many dog breeds that are susceptible to dental

disease as well as feline friends that may carry some viral diseases causing them to require regular dental procedures despite having a routine at home dental care plan. Of course, it is always recommended you consult your regular veterinary hospital for their recommended dental care plan specific to your pet.

For more information on in-home dental care tips please visit:

<https://veterinarypartner.vin.com/default.aspx?pid=19239&id=11934338>



❤️ *Staff Member of the Month* ❤️

Meet Jamie, one of our fearless registered veterinary technicians!



Jamie grew up in the Bay Area and later began her career in veterinary medicine. Her past experience includes working with a doctor who specialized in dentistry as well as orthopedics. Prior to joining our team, Jamie left the Bay Area and moved her family to EDC in 2017 when she took a several year break to focus on her family. During her break, she came to us as a client with her own pets medical needs until she was ready to venture back into the medical world in May of 2023. Jamie's prior knowledge in dentistry places her as a major asset to our team especially for months like dental month! Despite her interest in animal dentistry, that

area of veterinary medicine is more of an added perk to the job. What really has drawn Jamie to veterinary medicine all of these years is the daily challenge it brings to the table. Veterinary medicine can be so complex, but so rewarding that all staff involved learn something new every day and with that in mind it really is the perfect job for a go-getter like Jamie. Not to mention her knack for those spicy pets (probably because she comes with a lot of spice)! Outside of work, she enjoys spending time outdoors or having game nights with her husband, 23-year-old daughter, and 12-year-old son. When taking time for herself, Jamie enjoys reading as well as doing arts and crafts.



### Beat the Heat Month

The month of February is most well-known for being a month full of love. However, whether it's a coincidence or not, it's also a month used in veterinary medicine to spread awareness on spaying and neutering all pets because sometimes the sharing of all love isn't always what's best.

We here at PVPC just wanted to give out a gentle reminder that spaying and neutering all pets is not only beneficial in population control, but it also offers some health benefits to many cats and dogs. More specifically, not spaying your female cats and dogs can lead to a major infection of the uterus called a pyometra that can become lethal if not treated. Pyometras are only one example of the many complications that can arise as a result of not spaying or neutering your pets. If you're simply unsure if you should pursue

the surgery to spay or neuter your pet it's always best to consult with your regular veterinary office for professional advice.

### Please Don't Litter



Spay or Neuter Your Critters!

### Noodle's Notes



Hi folks! In case you didn't know, February 24th through February 28th is Veterinary Assistant Appreciation Week! With that in mind, I just wanted to take a moment to shine a light on our hard-working, compassionate veterinary assistants as they truly are an integral part of the team. Whether it be one of my pals here at PVPC or an assistant in another hospital, I encourage you to take the time during appreciation week to thank any veterinary assistant for all of the effort they put in to help care for you and your pets. Your appreciation will surely put a smile on their faces!

Anywho... Toodles for now! See ya'll next month!