



Dog Dentistry: Protecting Those Pearly Whites



Why Dental Care Matters

Your dog's teeth do more than just chew — they play a vital role in overall health. Without proper dental care, plaque and tartar can build up, leading to **periodontal disease**, pain, and even infections that affect the heart, liver, and kidneys.

Dental disease is one of the most common (and preventable!) health issues we see in dogs. The good news? With regular care, you can help your dog maintain a healthy, pain-free smile for life.



Signs of Dental Problems

It's not always easy to tell when your dog has a toothache, but watch for:

- *Bad breath (halitosis)*
- *Red or swollen gums*
- *Yellow or brown tartar on teeth*
- *Drooling or pawing at the mouth*
- *Reluctance to eat or chew*
- *Bleeding from the mouth*
- *Loose or missing teeth*

If you notice any of these signs, your dog should see a veterinarian for a dental exam.



What Happens During a Professional Dental Cleaning

At Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic, your dog's dental cleaning is performed under **general anesthesia** to allow for a safe, thorough exam and cleaning — just like when you visit your dentist.

Here's what to expect:

1. **Pre-anesthetic exam and lab work** – to ensure your pet is healthy for anesthesia.
2. **Full-mouth examination** – to check for damaged, loose, or infected teeth.
3. **Ultrasonic scaling and polishing** – to remove tartar above and below the gumline.
4. **Dental X-rays** – to evaluate tooth roots and bone health.
5. **Extractions (if needed)** – only when a tooth is painful or diseased beyond repair.

After the cleaning, your pet wakes up with a fresher mouth, cleaner teeth, and often a boost in energy and appetite!



Home Dental Care: Daily Prevention

Keeping your dog's teeth healthy starts at home:

- **Brush regularly:** Use a soft toothbrush and pet-safe toothpaste (never human toothpaste).
- **Offer dental chews or rinses:** Look for products approved by the **Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC)**.
- **Feed a dental-friendly diet:** Some foods are designed to reduce plaque buildup.
- **Schedule regular checkups:** Annual dental exams help catch problems early.

A few minutes a day can make a lifetime of difference in your dog's health and comfort.

The PVPC Difference

*At **Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic**, we know dental health is key to your dog's overall well-being.*

Our team uses gentle, modern dental techniques to keep your pet's mouth clean and comfortable. Whether it's a routine cleaning or advanced dental treatment, we treat every patient like family — with safety and compassion at every step.

Healthy mouth, happy dog.

Let's protect those pearly whites — schedule your dog's dental exam today!