



Franklin Farm
VETERINARY CLINIC

HOURS

Monday - Friday: 7:30am-6:30pm

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: Closed

December 2023 Newsletter

Fear Free Veterinary Care For Your Furry Friends. That's Franklin Farm.

A Top Ten List of Important Dental Health Facts!

Written by Kathleen Phillips DVM, CVA, CVFT

1. **Dogs and cats do not react to oral pain the way that humans do: They can have broken, worn or infected teeth and it doesn't slow them down.** Waiting for your pet to show pain can lead to such severe infection that dental treatment becomes an emergency.
2. **Healthy teeth and gums equal better breath!** Dog and cat kisses and snuggles are way more fun with no stinky breath.
3. **Dental inflammation can stress the heart, liver, kidneys, and pancreas.** Periodontal disease, inflammation of the support structures around the teeth and associated bacterial infection put constant strain on the organs of the body that keep us healthy. Dental-related bacteria can infect heart valves and lead to heart murmurs and congestive heart failure. Insulin resistance, a step on the way toward Diabetes, has also been linked to oral bacteria.
4. **Being familiar with the normal environment in your pet's mouth can help you spot abnormalities early.** Knowing the color of your pet's gums may help you spot anemia or bruising. Growths or swellings that may not be seen from outside will be detected sooner and be easier to treat if you brush your pet's teeth. We can plan how we will approach a broken tooth if it is found before infection, saving your pet pain and saving you money.
5. **We need home dental care to keep our mouths healthy- our pets are no different.** Consider what our dogs and cats put into their mouths; I rest my case. On a more serious note, gum disease, also called periodontal disease, happens five times more often in dogs than in people. Dogs have a more alkaline mouth than humans, which promotes rapid plaque formation. Approximately two thirds of cats over three years of age have some degree of periodontal disease.
6. **Many toys and chews that are widely available for pets cause dental problems: Deer antlers and hard bones last a long time and thus are popular chew toys for dogs.** Unfortunately, the crowns of a dog or cat's teeth are not as strong as human crowns and can break easily when they encounter very hard objects. The ideal dental chew or toy is

one that you can make a dent in when pressing with your fingernail. When harder toys and treats are used, teeth fracture, causing pain and infection.

7. **Dental home care saves you money!** This was mentioned above but is worth saying again. A home dental care routine allows you to find problems in your pet's mouth before they develop into an emergency, giving us time to develop a treatment plan that works for you, your pet and your budget. In many pets, home care can decrease the frequency of dental cleanings.
8. **Teeth fun facts!** Adult cats have 30 teeth, while adult dogs have 42. Adult humans have 32. A Labrador Retriever has the same number of teeth as a Chihuahua.
9. **The Veterinary Oral Health Council has developed a list of products that have been proven to decrease tartar and plaque accumulation in pets.** Purchasing dental care products that sport this seal ensures you are choosing proven dental products for your pet. See <http://www.vohc.org/> for lists of dog and cat approved products.
10. **Franklin Farm Veterinary Clinic provides comprehensive dental cleanings and oral health assessments year-round.** We are also offering discounts in January and February as an extra incentive to encourage healthy mouths. Please call us today to find out more or set up an appointment.





PetDesk is Here!

We have a new interactive communication tool for your pet's health called PetDesk. It is a mobile app where you will receive reminders for your pet's health care, access your pet's vaccine information and appointment history, access to refill history and has informative pet related articles. You can utilize the app for 24/7 online booking, request prescription refills, receive lab work results and you can receive text updates from our hospital staff.

Download the app now!



Dogs Corner



Dog Fact: Holiday foods can be full of hidden dangers, and some are poisonous to cats and dogs. Foods like onion, garlic, grapes, xylitol sweetener, salt, chocolate, raw bread dough, turkey/chicken bones, and alcohol is toxic to our pets. Do not feed table scraps, feed pets their regular meals. Instead, take your dog on an extra walk, or have extra play time. This can help reduce stress for both of you during the busy holiday season.

Cats Corner



Cat Fact: Holiday foods can be full of hidden dangers, and some are poisonous to cats and dogs. Foods like onion, garlic, grapes, xylitol sweetener, salt, chocolate, raw bread dough, turkey/chicken bones, and alcohol is toxic to our pets. Do not feed table scraps, feed pets their regular meals. Instead, set aside extra play times with your cat. This can help reduce stress for both of you during the busy holiday season.

Pet of the Month – Chloe

Written By: Caroline Webster

Chloe is a fun loving and adorable five-year-old Malti-poo of the Lopresti family. One of her favorite activities includes lounging on the sofa for family time while enjoying her greenies and peanut butter cookies. She is a zoom monster after her bubble baths. Chloe loves her morning belly rubs and getting some full-on TLC while playing with her “squirrel” and her favorite green squeaky toy. When she is not lounging, she is adventuring on her boat with the wind in her fur at Smith Mountain Lake enjoying some salmon sticks!



PET DENTAL AWARENESS:

In observation of National Pet Dental Health Awareness, book your pet's dental cleaning and oral health exam during January and February and receive \$100.00 off the cost of the dental cleaning and comprehensive oral exam.



RUFFerral Program:

At Franklin Farm we believe "RUFFerrals" are the greatest form of flattery. Refer a friend and your pet will receive a **\$25.00** credit at your next appointment. Your referral's pet will receive a FREE bag of treats at their first appointment.

Celebrations in December:

International Animal Rights Day is a call to action urging everyone to rethink their attitudes toward animals and build a more compassionate society. International Animal Rights Day is an annual event honoring animals as sentient beings who deserve the same protections as people.

Animal sentience laws formally recognize what science already confirms that just like

us, animals feel emotions like joy and sorrow. These laws change how we view animals – from property to beings worthy of care and respect. They lay the framework for humane policies and encourage a societal shift toward ethical treatment.



Cancellation Policy:

Hello Everyone:

We need your help! **If you are unable to keep your appointment for any reason, please call to reschedule or cancel the appointment more than 24 hours in advance of your scheduled appointment time.**

This allows ample time for other clients to call and get their fur babies seen.

We understand that you all have a lot going on in your lives and unexpected things pop up, so please remember to contact us **more than 24 hours** in advance of your scheduled appointment time.

We have implemented a Cancellation Policy, as follows:

If you need to reschedule or cancel your appointment, please do so **more than 24 hours** in advance of your appointment time.

If you reschedule/cancel less than 24 hours leading up to your appointment, or no show, you will be charged for the office visit fee correlating to your appointment.

When you reschedule or cancel **more than 24 hours** in advance, it allows other patients to be seen in your rescheduled/canceled spot. This ensures the best opportunity for care for all of our patients.

Thank you for your anticipated assistance!

