



Franklin Farm
VETERINARY CLINIC

HOURS

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

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: Closed

November 2024 Newsletter

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

Comprehensive Oral Health Exams Part 2 of Professional Dental Cleaning And Comprehensive Oral Health Assessments and Treatments

Written by: Wanda Hudgins, LVT, CVPM

What is a Comprehensive Oral Health Exam:

The Comprehensive Oral Health Exam is a thorough oral examination and is the foundation of veterinary dental diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. The best possible treatment and long-term outcomes are directly related to these examinations.

The veterinarian looks into the mouth of an anesthetized patient and identifies any gingival pockets, masses, or diseased teeth in the mouth and prepares a chart to be kept in the pet's medical record.

The veterinarian evaluates the head, face, the oral cavity including throat and tongue, and the gingiva for any abnormalities including malocclusion, stomatitis, lacerations, granulomas, foreign bodies, etc. Enlarged mandibular lymph nodes often can be palpated during this examination. They will then **evaluate each tooth visually, probing and radiographic examination** to assess abnormal mobility scores, calculus accumulation and abnormal oral growth. The veterinarian will look for missing, mobile, deciduous or fractured teeth. The periodontal probe is used to measure the depth of the gingival crevice in millimeters to help evaluate the extent of support loss.

Dogs normally have less than 2 mm probing depths and cats less than 1 mm. Greater depths may indicate periodontal disease and require treatment. Circumferential is the probing (the placing of the probe in the sulcus, or pocket, in at least four places (two buccal, two lingual or palatal) around each tooth to record millimeter readings. This is an extensive process as dogs have 42 teeth and cats have 30 teeth. The probing method helps eliminate inaccurate readings when subgingival calculus is present or in cases where isolated areas of vertical bone loss are present.

Periodontal diseases are the most common maladies affecting dogs and cats. There are two broad categories of periodontal disease. **Gingivitis**, in which inflammation is confined to the gingival soft tissues, is the early form of periodontal disease. Regular teeth scaling, polishing and subgingival cleaning will help prevent gingivitis and help it to subside.

Periodontitis, in which the supporting bone recedes, is the more established form of periodontal disease. Periodontitis is an inflammatory condition affecting the deeper supporting structures of the tooth, including the periodontal ligament, cementum, and alveolar bone. Periodontitis occurs when bacteria break through the epithelial barrier and move deeper into periodontal tissues. This causes the gingiva to separate from the alveolar bone, leading to attachment loss and creating a periodontal pocket. Periodontal bone loss can be present with or without active inflammation and is considered irreversible, meaning that lost bone cannot be regained without advanced regenerative surgeries.

Oral masses occur commonly in dogs and cats. Oral masses in pets can be serious. Even benign masses can lead to oral pain, bone destruction, difficulty eating, and bad breath. If your pet has an oral mass, surgical removal is highly recommended. Treatment may involve surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or a combination of these modalities. Your veterinarian will work with you to ensure your pet receives a comprehensive diagnostic and treatment plan, so you can rest assured that your pet is getting the best care possible.

Plaque forms hours after brushing, and **tartar** allows bacteria to grow unchecked. If left untreated, dental disease can lead to local infections, abscesses, and even systemic problems, affecting your pet's heart, liver, and kidneys. Annual Comprehensive Oral Health Exams and Dental Cleanings can help your pet live a happy and healthy life.



Thanksgiving Pet Safety

Written by the AVMA

Thanksgiving is a special holiday that brings together family and friends, but it also can carry some hazards for pets. Holiday food needs to be kept away from pets, and pet owners who travel need to either transport their pets safely or find safe accommodations for them at home. Follow these tips to keep your pets healthy and safe during the holiday.

Poison Risks

Overindulging in the family feast can be unhealthy for humans, but even worse for pets: Fatty foods are hard for animals to digest. Poultry bones can damage your pet's digestive tract. And holiday sweets can contain ingredients that are poisonous to pets.

- **Keep the feast on the table**—not under it. Eating turkey or turkey skin – sometimes even a small amount – can cause a life-threatening condition in pets known as pancreatitis. Fatty foods are hard for animals to digest, and many foods that are healthy for people are poisonous to pets – including onions, raisins and grapes. If you want to share a Thanksgiving treat with your pet, make or buy a treat that is made just for them.
- **No pie or other desserts for your pooch.** Chocolate can be harmful for pets, even though many dogs find it tempting and will sniff it out and eat it. The artificial sweetener called xylitol – commonly used in gum and sugar-free baked goods – also can be deadly if consumed by dogs or cats.
- **Yeast dough can cause problems for pets**, including painful gas and potentially dangerous bloating.
- **Put the trash away where your pets can't find it.** A turkey carcass sitting out on the carving table, or left in a trash container that is open or easily opened, could be deadly to your family pet. Dispose of turkey carcasses and bones – and anything used to wrap or tie the meat, such as strings, bags and packaging – in a covered, tightly secured trash bag placed in a closed trash container outdoors (or behind a closed, locked door).
- **Be careful with decorative plants.** Don't forget that some flowers and festive plants can be toxic to pets. These include amaryllis, Baby's Breath, Sweet William, some ferns, hydrangeas and more. The ASPCA offers lists of plants that are toxic to both [dogs](#) and [cats](#), but the safest route is simply to keep your pets away from all plants and table decorations.
- **Quick action can save lives.** If you believe your pet has been poisoned or eaten something it shouldn't have, call your veterinarian or local veterinary emergency clinic immediately. You may also want to call the ASPCA Poison Control Hotline: 888-426-4435. Signs of pet distress include: sudden changes in behavior, depression, pain, vomiting, or diarrhea. Contact your veterinarian immediately.

Precautions for Parties

If you're hosting a party or overnight visitors, plan ahead to keep your pets safe and make the experience less stressful for everyone.

- **Visitors can upset your pets.** Some pets are shy or excitable around new people or in crowds, and Thanksgiving often means many visitors at once and higher-than-usual noise and activity levels. If you

know your dog or cat is nervous when people visit your home, put him/her in another room or a crate with a favorite toy. This will reduce the emotional stress on your pet and protect your guests from possible injury. If your pet is particularly upset by houseguests, talk to your veterinarian about possible solutions to this common problem.

[Learn about dog bite prevention.](#)

- **If any of your guests have compromised immune systems** (due to pregnancy, some diseases, or medications or treatments that suppress the immune system), make sure they're aware of the pets (especially exotic pets) in your home so they can take extra precautions to protect themselves.
- **If you have exotic pets**, remember that some people are uncomfortable around them and that these pets may be more easily stressed by the festivities. Keep exotic pets safely away from the hubbub of the holiday.
- **Watch the exits.** Even if your pets are comfortable around guests, make sure you watch them closely, especially when people are entering or leaving your home. While you're welcoming hungry guests and collecting coats, a four-legged family member may make a break for it out the door and become lost.
- **Identification tags and microchips reunite families.** Make sure your pet has proper identification with your current contact information – particularly a microchip with up-to-date, registered information. That way, if they do sneak out, they're more likely to be returned to you. If your pet isn't already microchipped, talk to your veterinarian about the benefits of this simple procedure.
[Learn more about microchips.](#)
- **Watch your pets around festive decorations.** Special holiday displays or candles are attractive to pets as well as people. Never leave a pet alone in an area with a lit candle; it could result in a fire. And pine cones, needles and other decorations can cause intestinal blockages or even perforate an animal's intestine if eaten.

Travel Concerns

Whether you take your pets with you or leave them behind, take these precautions to safeguard them when traveling over the Thanksgiving holiday or at any other time of the year.

Your pet needs a [health certificate from your veterinarian](#) if you're traveling across state lines or international borders, whether by air or car. [Learn the requirements](#) for any states you will visit or pass through, and schedule an appointment with your veterinarian to get the needed certificate within the timeframes required by those states.

[Learn more about health certificates.](#)

Never leave pets alone in vehicles, even for a short time, regardless of the weather.

Pets should always be safely restrained in vehicles. This means using a secure harness or a carrier, placed in a location clear of airbags. This helps protect your pets if you brake or swerve suddenly, or get in an accident; keeps them away from potentially poisonous food or other items you are transporting; prevents them from causing dangerous distractions for the driver; and can prevent small animals from getting trapped in small spaces. Never transport your pet in the bed of a truck.

[Learn more about properly restraining pets in vehicles.](#)

Talk with your veterinarian if you're traveling by air and considering bringing your pet with you. Air travel can put pets at risk, [especially short-nosed dogs](#). Your veterinarian is the best person to advise you regarding your own pet's ability to travel.

Pack for your pet as well as yourself if you're going to travel together. In addition to your pet's food and medications, this includes bringing medical records, information to help identify your pet if it becomes lost, first aid supplies, and other items. Refer to our [Traveling with Your Pet FAQ](#) for a more complete list.

Are you considering boarding your dog while you travel? Talk with your veterinarian to find out how best to protect your pet from [canine flu](#) and other contagious diseases, and to make sure your pet is up-to-date on vaccines.

Food Safety

Don't forget to protect your family and loved ones from foodborne illnesses while cooking your Thanksgiving meal. Hand washing, and safe food handling and preparation, are important to make sure your holiday is a happy one. The U.S. Department of Agriculture [offers tips](#) for handling, thawing and cooking turkey, as well as saving your leftovers.



Dogs Corner



Dog Fact: The Siberian Husky is a beautiful and intelligent pup, and has a double coat of fur for colder climates. While the Siberian Husky may not bark, they do howl. They have brown, blue, black or parti-colored eyes.

They are playful, strong and have the endurance to pull sleds. They are friendly, good with children and have high energy levels. You may find yourself enjoying more outdoor activities to expend some of their energy.

Cats Corner



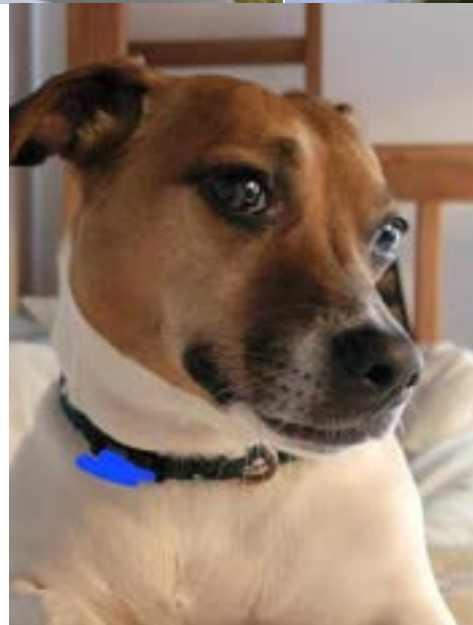
Black Cat Fact: The Siberian Cat is made for handling intense cold weather. In the winter, they have a triple coat of hair and in the summer, they shed making for a shorter, less dense coat. They are one of the oldest cat breeds.

Siberian Cats are friendly, affectionate and people oriented. They enjoy learning new tricks and are fascinated with water. They are one of only 2 cats that are deemed hypo-allergenic due to their lesser producing of allergen-causing protein Feline d 1.

Pet of the Month: Jenga

Written by: Camilla Herrera

Our Pet of the Month is Jenga! Jenga enjoys napping on pillows and squishmallows, any soft surface really. She enjoys tanning in the summer and sunbathing while she gazes over her domain. She delights in ripping the stuffing out of any toy presented to her, displaying her predatory prowess. She has a shy exterior but once your break through, she loves belly rubs and smooches. While she does not like getting her nails done, she loves getting all the treats and love afterwards. We love seeing Jenga! She is one Superstar.



Pet Desk 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!



PET DENTAL AWARENESS:

We have had a large response to National Pet Dental Health awareness. Book your pet's dental cleaning and oral health exam during November and December and you will receive \$100.00 off the cost of those services.



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 November:

In November, we celebrate internationally, the Human-Animal Bond and its affects: help to alleviate stress, help fight depression, can help with social support and reduce loneliness and isolation, they help increase physical fitness and encourage activity, they also promote healing and resiliency.



This ensures the best opportunity for care for all of our patients.

Thank you for your anticipated assistance!



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.