

Downwood Client Dentistry Handout - Dogs

Dental disease is the most common health issue affecting adult dogs/cats. Research indicates that by the age of two, approximately 80% of dogs and 70% of cats develop some degree of periodontal disease.

Despite being so common, periodontal disease often goes undiagnosed. This is partly due to limited awareness and education but also because the condition frequently presents with minimal or no visible symptoms.

Dental care is so important, as periodontal disease has been linked to serious systemic health issues. Some examples are:

- Kidney disease
- Liver disease
- Heart disease
- Diabetes

Common Dental Findings

Periodontal disease starts with **plaque formation** which is a sticky layer of saliva and food particles. This then sticks to the teeth and forms **tartar** which hardens and can cover most of the tooth. If untreated, the bacteria can invade the gum line and cause redness, swelling and loosens the gum's attachment to the tooth. This can then lead to loose teeth, infected teeth/abscesses and dental pain. This can be extremely uncomfortable for your pet and this is why extractions are often necessary.

Another dental condition is **tooth resorption** which is often referred to as **FORLS (Feline Odontoclastic Resorptive Lesions)**. This is where the body mistakenly attacks and dissolves part of the tooth. It is a very common, painful disease where the body destroys tooth structures like enamel and dentin. There is no cure and often extractions are the only way to resolve it. This is most prevalent in cats but can be seen in dogs.

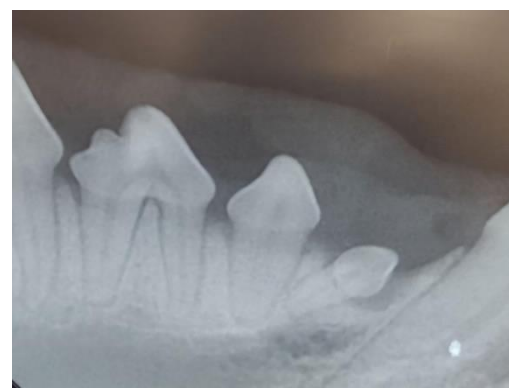
We also often find **fractured teeth** which occur due to trauma either from chewing on something hard or trauma from fights or accidents. Fractured or damaged teeth can be very painful and often require extractions.

Dogs and cats can also be born with the wrong amount of teeth or misalignment which often requires dental extractions if they are showing symptoms of discomfort.



Image to the left showing a broken tooth, the crown is missing. Only the roots are left which are buried under the gum. These are only visible on x-rays.

Image to the right is showing an extra premolar / deciduous (baby tooth) that has grown at the wrong angle, although you could see the tip of the tooth, we only knew the root was angled after taking the x-rays which made extraction so much easier!





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Dental assessment

Regular dental checks are required to spot any possible problems with your dog/cat's mouth. Our pets often do not show any symptoms until they are in a lot of pain, so it is best to monitor your pet's mouths regularly to prevent any future problems. It can be hard to fully examine your pet's teeth when they are conscious, especially if they find it hard to stay still. They often need a full assessment under general anaesthetic to find out exactly if or how many extractions are needed. We take **full mouth radiographs** to help us to diagnose these conditions as often these cannot be seen with the naked eye and may sit under the gum line.

Downwood's Dental Stage 1/Initial assessment Includes:

- Full examination/charting of teeth under general anaesthetic
- Full mouth radiographs to fully assess the roots of the teeth and interpretation of the radiographs
- Scale and Polish of all teeth
- Up to 30 minutes of extraction time (if no extractions are required, the price will be reduced)
- Suture material and consumables

For lots of pets if the dental disease is caught early enough, Stage 1 is all that is required. However, in some cases especially in older animals that require extensive or complex extractions a second stage may be required. This is usually done 2-4 weeks later. This means your pet will have two shorter anaesthetics which can seem a lot to put your pet through, but research has showed that animals recover better post op if they have had two shorter anaesthetics compared to one long one. If extensive extractions are required, then doing extractions one side at a time allows your animal to eat easily on the 'otherside' whilst the extraction sites heal. This reduces pain and discomfort and ensures a stress free recovery.

All of this will be communicated to you at the discharge appointment of the first stage and an estimate will be provided for the further work required.

Insurance

Some insurance companies will cover dental work, as long as your pet is regularly seen by a vet, and advice is taken from the vet. However, lots of insurance companies won't cover dental procedures, so it is always worth checking beforehand.

Buccal

Buccal R

Palatal

110 109 108 107 106 105 104 103 102 101 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210

Calculus (0-3)

Gingivitis (0-3)

Pocket Depth (mm)

Buccal

Buccal R

Lingual

411 410 409 408 407 406 405 404 403 402 401 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311

Calculus (0-3)

Gingivitis (0-3)

Pocket Depth (mm)

The image to the left, shows a completed assessment chart to plan extractions, note down any issues. This is done after the xrays and before the scaling. A copy will be given to you at the discharge appointment. A copy will also be kept on your pets clinical record.



TREATMENT

Bifurcation Exposure

Gum Recession

105 / 104

• 106 309

RECOMMENDATIONS

✓ Planned

X Extracted

○ Missing

Image to the right shows a before scaling and polishing photo at the top and the bottom photo was taken after on recovery.

What does it cost?

Stage of dental - DOGS	Price	Total price inc stage 1	comments
Stage 1 No extracts	£475	£475	Assessment / x-rays / scale and polish
Stage 1 – minimal extracts	£575	£575	As above with minimal extractions upto 30mins
The price for the 2nd stage will be provided after the 1st stage			
Stage 2 <4 teeth	£276.00	£851.00	After stage 1, planned extractions < 4 teeth
Stage 2 5-8**	£360.00	£935.00	After stage 1, planned extractions 5-8 teeth. This is also the price for complex extractions 1-4 teeth (canines / carnassials / #roots)
Stage 2 >8	£450	£1025.00	CAPPED PRICE for extractions over 8 teeth

*** Pre-anaesthetic blood tests, fluid therapy (if indicated) pain relief and other post operative medication (if required) will be additional to this price above. ***