

BigCreek PetHospital Beagle

A Message from Dr. Fegan

Re: Dental Disease – Prevention is critical AND cost effective!

I diagnose more pets having dental disease than any other single finding. In fact, last year we diagnosed dental disease in over a thousand pets. This can significantly impact the life of your loved one and lead to costly medical care in the long term. **Prevention is certainly cheaper than the cure!**

Most times when you notice your pet having trouble with their teeth and gums, it means they may already have a significant problem that will only get worse if left untreated. These kinds of problems may include *Endocardiosis* (where blood infected from the gum tissue can scar heart valves, leading to inefficient blood delivery which affects the whole body, and eventually to potential heart failure) and *Glomerulonephritis* (where gum bacteria can be carried to kidney, killing irreplaceable cells and allowing toxins to build up, leading to kidney failure).

I don't want your pet to be in pain because of infected gums or bad teeth. I don't want to have to pull your pet's teeth. I don't want to see your pet's life cut short because the bacteria from your pet's mouth infected their internal organs. Instead, I want your pet to have a healthy, happy, longer life. So, follow these simple guidelines to protect your pet's teeth:

- **Bring your pet in for a dental assessment** at which we can guide you on the current state of their teeth and gums and give you tips for the best follow up care at home.
Free Assessment January 12th – March 13th
- **Watch what your pet eats or chews and check his or her mouth for the warning signs** listed elsewhere in this newsletter.
- Just like we do, have your pet's **teeth professionally cleaned.**

**Save 10% during our Dental Special
January 12th through March 13th**

With dental hygiene, **quality of oral care = quality of your pet's life.** We look forward to working closely with you to ensure your pet receives outstanding dental care, **saving you money** in the long term and, most importantly, helping your loved one to **live a healthier, happier life.**

16949 E. Bagley Road
Middleburg Heights, OH 44130
Phone: (440) 234-5831
Fax: (440) 243-9681
e-mail: bigcreekpet@sbcglobal.net
website: www.bigcreekpet.com
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Big Creek Pet Hospital's Dental Special!

Big Creek Pet Hospital is observing National Pet Dental Month with a Dental Special that runs for two months, January 12th – March 13th. Here's what we're doing:

- 1. You're invited to a Dental Party**
Wednesday, January 21st from 7 pm – 8 pm to learn more about how to care for your pet's teeth.
Come and receive a chance to win door prizes and be entered into our Dental Special drawing. Bring a non-client friend and get extra chances for the drawing.
- 2. 10% off all dental services and dental products** or choose one of the following rebates:
 - a. Up to \$100 rebate for you and 7 friends for a movie and pizza.
 - b. Up to \$50 rebate for a golf or spa outing.
- 3. Dental Special Drawing – enter to win one of these fabulous prizes:**
 - 1st Prize - Three-day cruise and airfare package for two
 - 2nd Prize - Hotel accommodations for 2 nights at any one of 500 destinations (for two)
 - 3rd Prize - \$100 Gasoline Rebate Card

Call our hospital to find out more about how you can enter this contest. Details about the prizes and rebates being offered are available at our office. Chances to win are based on the number of entries.

**CALL NOW to have
your pet's professional
dental cleaning scheduled:**

440-234-5831

3 Myths – Incorrect Reasons to NOT Get Your Pet a Dental Cleaning

Many owners fail to get their pet's teeth cleaned due to the following three myths:

Risk of Anesthesia – The risk of complications due to anesthesia are **less than .2%**. If dental disease is not halted, however, complications to your pet's health are assured. Anesthesia is required to clean the teeth properly, especially cleaning under the gums.

Age – Along with a pre-anesthetic exam, senior pets receive mandatory EKG examinations and pre-anesthetic bloodwork. We only perform dental cleaning on pets that we believe are healthy enough to have the procedure. Senior pets and other pets with a higher risk receive fluids during the procedure.

Cost – The cost of your pet's dental cleaning may exceed your routine cleaning. This is due to the added cost of anesthesia, monitoring, and recovery not included in your dental procedure. **In the long run, it is more cost effective to have your pet's teeth cleaned rather than dealing with all the problems of advanced dental disease. Please discuss payment options with one of our Client Relations Specialists.**

Win a Fabulous Prize!

We are giving away 3 fabulous prizes:

- Cruise N' Fly – a 3-day Carnival cruise for two with complimentary airfare
- Three-day (2-night) hotel accommodations for two at one of 500 destinations
- \$100 gasoline rebate

For details on how to enter, prizes and restrictions, call us at: 440-234-5831

This is the kind of improvement you can expect for your pet!

Big Creek Canine Patient

Before Dental Procedure



After Dental Procedure



How to Improve Your Pet's Health Now

Get your pet's teeth cleaning (prophylaxis) done NOW, and you will be helping your pet have a healthier life and prevent more severe (and expensive to treat) problems from happening. We also strongly recommend doing regular home dental care for your pet. A dental cleaning includes the following:

Pre-Anesthetic Exam

Pre-Anesthesia Bloodwork

(recommended for all pets and required for pets 7 years & older)

Anesthesia – Isoflurane gas anesthesia

Monitoring – Your pet will be hooked up to equipment that monitors the heart and blood oxygen level.

Dental Examination and Digital X-Rays

Dental Cleaning – Ultrasonic scaling and polishing

Tooth Extraction (optional)

Post-Operative Recovery

Home Care Instructions

Warning Signs

Could your pet already be suffering from dental disease?

1. **Bad Breath** – Unless he or she has just eaten a smelly food, such as tuna, your pet should **not** have bad breath.
2. **Discolored Teeth** – Healthy teeth in both cats and dogs are white. Discolored teeth, especially around the gum line, are a sign of a dental problem.
3. **Red, Swollen, or Bleeding Gums** – If your pet's gums are red, swollen, or bleeding they need attention. Healthy gums are pink.
4. **Reluctance to Eat** – Some pets don't want to eat because their teeth hurt them.
5. **Loose Teeth** – If your pet's teeth are loose, this is a sign of bone loss in the jaw (i.e. periodontal disease).

Some Issues Resulting from Dental Disease

Your pet may be in pain – Have you ever had a toothache? Excruciating wasn't it? Your pet may have this level of pain but is unable to tell you. In fact, they instinctively try not to show pain.

Tooth loss – Your pet's teeth may become infected or the underlying bony support structure may be damaged due to periodontal disease. Your pet's teeth may become loose, lost, or damaged.

More prone to sickness – Infections in the mouth can lower your pet's immunity level, thereby making him or her more prone to sickness.

Shortened life span – The bacteria in your pet's mouth enters the bloodstream, spreading throughout your pet's body, adversely affecting the heart, liver, lungs, and kidneys. In pets (just like us), the most common cause of valvular heart infection is dental disease.