

The Ugly Truth About Dental Health and Your Pets

Dental health is important to you and your pets. 80% of dogs and 70% of cats have signs of oral disease by the age of 3. "This is a tragedy" says Michele Mescher of Glenway Animal Hospital. Signs of oral disease include yellow and brown tartar buildup along the gum line, red inflamed gums and continuous bad breath.

You may notice warning signs of oral disease if you notice your pet has bad breath, or has a change in eating or chewing habits. You may also notice your pet pawing at their mouth. Broken teeth are painful and can lead to further oral disease. You should contact your veterinarian if you notice any of these signs.

You can reduce the risk of oral disease by:

- Having routine physical exams by your veterinarian, including a dental exam.
- Brushing your pet's teeth at home.
- Having routine dental cleaning under anesthesia at your veterinary office when needed.

February is Dental Health Month learn more about dental care by contacting your veterinarian. You can also join Glenway Animal Hospital May 8th at their open house event to learn more about your pet's health care options. (www.glenwayanimalhospital.com)