

### #3 WHAT CAUSES DOG PERIODONTAL DISEASE

Dog periodontal disease is an inflammation and infection in the gums around your pet's teeth. It's caused by bacteria. They build up in your dog's mouth, forming soft plaque that can get underneath the gum line and harden into tartar.

The good news is you can easily prevent periodontal disease in your dog, particularly if you start early. It simply takes a combination of [routine home care](#) and regular dental cleanings. You can save your dog from a lot of discomfort and pain. Not to mention, you can save yourself a lot of money .

### #4 DOG PERIODONTAL DISEASE SIGNS

Keep in mind, dog periodontal disease can be difficult to identify. Plus, dogs are good at hiding pain.

For example, dogs with severe cases of periodontal disease may still be eating regularly. Ultimately, though, they'll reach a point in which they start swallowing their food without chewing it.

Nonetheless, you may notice your dog has:

- bad breath
- irritated gums
- heavy salivation
- problems picking up food
- Reluctance to eat (particularly in cats)
- a tendency to chew on one side of the mouth, and/or bumps and lumps in the mouth

If you notice any of these symptoms, it's best to bring your dog in for a veterinary visit.

### PARTING THOUGHTS ON GETTING A DOG DENTAL CLEANING

To support you in raising a happy and healthy pet, we always include a routine dental exam in your dog's annual checkup. Feel free to ask us any additional questions you may have about your dogs dental health.



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# Southside Pet Clinic

**Pet Dental Health Awareness**



**WHERE YOUR PET IS OUR FAMILY**

## #1 HOW OFTEN AND AT WHAT AGE IS A DOG DENTAL CLEANING NEEDED

It depends on your dog. Some don't need a dog dental cleaning until they're 6 or 7 years old. Others, such as smaller dog breeds, need a dental cleaning by the time they're 2 years old.

Typically, once a year is plenty for a dog dental cleaning, but the timing depends on your pup. If your dog has periodontal disease, he or she will require more frequent teeth cleanings

If you're bringing your dog in for an annual veterinary checkup, we'll check your pet's teeth. We're happy to let you know the right timing.

## #2 DO I REALLY NEED TO BRING MY DOG IN ONCE A YEAR FOR TEETH CLEANING

Believe it or not, dental disease (known as pet periodontal disease) is the most widespread disease in adult dogs and cats. As many as 85% of dogs have the disease by the time they're 3 or 4 years old.

If pet periodontal disease isn't treated, it can really harm your dog's body:

1. Causing chronic pain
2. Destroying your dog's teeth, gums, and bones
3. Contributing to even more serious issues, such as damage to your dog's major organs

## #5 WHAT CAN I DO FOR MY DOG BETWEEN DENTAL CLEANINGS

There are a variety of daily activities you can do at home to help prevent dog periodontal disease. For example, you can:

- Give your dog a dental chew
- Add a drinking water additive to your dog's water bowl to fight plaque and freshen breath
- Squirt a dental oral rinse into your dog water bowl to fight plaque and freshen breath
- Brush your dog's teeth with a special toothbrush and toothpaste

If you're skeptical or nervous, don't worry. We're here to help you understand your options. We can help you figure out what works best for your dog and show you the right brushing techniques.

## #6 WHY DO YOU USE ANESTHESIA DURING A DOG DENTAL CLEANING AND IS IT SAFE

Anesthesia allows us to be more thorough in a dental cleaning and modern anesthesia is safe for your pet.

With your pet sedated, we can clean teeth beneath the gum line and on the inside of the mouth (areas susceptible to periodontal disease)

At our Veterinary Clinic, we monitor your pet's oxygen level, heart rate and blood pressure with each dental cleaning. We also place and IV catheter and connect IV fluids, so we can stabilize your pet's blood pressure and quickly administer medication if needed.



## #7 WHY DONT YOU RECOMMEND AMESTHESIA-FREE TEETH CLEANING FOR DOGS

An anesthesia-free cleaning is a cosmetic procedure. It isn't a thorough, oral health procedure. Because your dog is awake, the technician can't clean beneath your pet's gum line or along the interior side of the teeth.

There are other risks too, such as:

- Stress and anxiety for your dog
- Injuries to your dog if he or she makes a sudden movement.

## #8 WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT IN THE 24 HOURS AFTER A DOG DENTAL CLEANING

In the 24 hours after a dog dental cleaning, the main thing to keep in mind is that your pet may still be a little sleepy. Make sure your dog is comfortable and has a nice place to rest.

We suggest only a little bit of water the day your dog comes home from their dental cleaning. Your dog should be ready to eat and drink the day following their dental cleaning.

