

Why Dental Care Matters

Family Matters

When was the last time you looked inside your pet's mouth?

For many pet guardians, the answer is probably, "Not recently."

That's understandable. Most dogs and cats continue eating, playing and behaving normally, even when they're living with significant dental disease.

At Amity, we believe dental health is about much more than fresh breath or white teeth. It's about comfort, health and quality of life. Our purpose is to **Empower You Through Education**, helping you understand why looking after your pet's mouth is one of the greatest gifts you can give them.

Bad Breath Isn't Normal

Many people think bad breath is simply part of owning a pet.

It isn't.

In most cases, bad breath is caused by bacteria, plaque and tartar accumulating around the teeth. Over time, this can lead to inflamed gums, infection, loose teeth and significant pain.

If your pet's breath smells unpleasant, it's worth having their mouth examined.

Dental Disease Is Often Hidden

The biggest problem with dental disease is that **most of it happens below the gum line**, where you can't see it.

A tooth may appear perfectly normal on the surface while infection is quietly damaging the bone supporting it underneath.

That's why your vet examines not only the visible teeth but also the gums and surrounding tissues. In many cases, dental X-rays are needed to assess what's happening beneath the surface.

Pain Isn't Always Obvious

Pets are remarkably good at hiding pain.

Many continue eating despite severe dental disease because they simply adapt to the discomfort.

Signs can be very subtle, including:

- Bad breath.
- Dropping food.
- Chewing on one side.
- Reluctance to play with toys.
- Pawing at the mouth.
- Weight loss.
- Becoming quieter or less interactive.

Some pets show no obvious signs at all.

That's why regular dental examinations are so important.

Prevention Is Better Than Treatment

The best dental treatment is the one your pet never needs.

Brushing your pet's teeth regularly is the most effective way to prevent plaque build-up. Dental diets, approved dental chews and other preventative products can also help, but they should complement—not replace—tooth brushing.

Starting these routines when pets are young makes them much easier to continue throughout life.

More Than Just Clean Teeth

When professional dental treatment is needed, the goal isn't simply to make the teeth look cleaner.

It's to remove infection, relieve pain and restore oral health.

Because most dental disease occurs beneath the gum line, a thorough dental examination and treatment require a general anaesthetic. This allows us to clean below the gums, examine every tooth properly, take dental X-rays where necessary and treat painful disease safely and effectively.

A Healthier Mouth, A Healthier Pet

A healthy mouth allows your pet to eat comfortably, play happily and enjoy life without hidden pain.

At every health check, we'll examine your pet's teeth and gums and discuss ways to keep their mouth healthy. Small changes today can prevent much bigger problems in the future.

Because dental care isn't about creating a perfect smile.

It's about giving your pet a more comfortable life.

And every comfortable day is another day your family gets to enjoy the happy, healthy companion you love.

Because they're not just your pet.

They're family.

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet. We're here to Empower You Through Education and help you become your pet's greatest advocate.