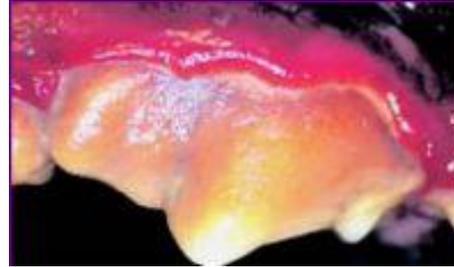


Preventative dental cleanings should ideally begin **before** significant tartar or gingivitis develops.

Start Here



Not Here!



Or Here!



Why?

Tooth loss

Extractions are often necessary when regular preventative dental cleanings aren't done before disease develops. Preventative dental cleanings help to keep the teeth and gums healthy so that pets are less likely to lose teeth.

Irreversible

Once advanced dental disease occurs, we can't reverse the process or stop it. We can only try to slow down the progression as much as possible. Continued dental disease, even after major dental work, is likely.

Longer under anesthesia

A dental procedure involving multiple extractions can often require pets to be under anesthesia two or three times longer than a preventative cleaning. This can result in additional hours of anesthesia and surgical time.

Complications can occur

Serious complications can occur when involved dental procedures with extractions are required, including jaw fractures. Abscesses, infections, kidney disease, heart disease, lung disease and chronic pain are common with untreated dental disease.

Costs much more

A dental procedure involving multiple extractions usually costs two to three times more than a simple preventative cleaning. With radiographs, extraction costs, additional anesthesia time, antibiotics, and pain medications, it can be \$250 to \$600 more than a preventative dental cleaning.

Don't delay further

Even if disease is already present, don't delay any further. The more time goes by, the more dental disease occurs, and the greater the cost, number of extractions, anesthetic time, and risk for complications.

Prevention is better than trying to play catch up!

If preventative dental cleanings are not performed early enough, dental disease treatments involving extractions are necessary instead of a simple cleaning. Most dogs and cats are healthiest with annual preventative cleanings starting when they are just a few years old, but some pets can wait longer between cleanings without increased risk for disease. Ask the doctor for the recommendation for your pet.