



# “Dental Disease” in Dogs and Cats

What is it? How do we treat it?  
How can we prevent it? What can  
pet owners do?

# Introduction

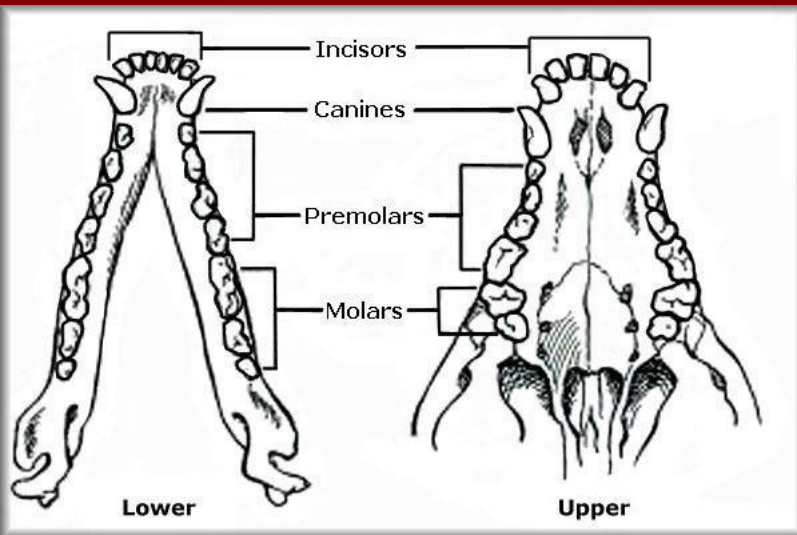


- From North Dakota; vet school at Iowa State
- 3 pets- Gretta, Baxter, Ronald
- Interests: medicine, surgery, and preventive care

# Goals for tonight...

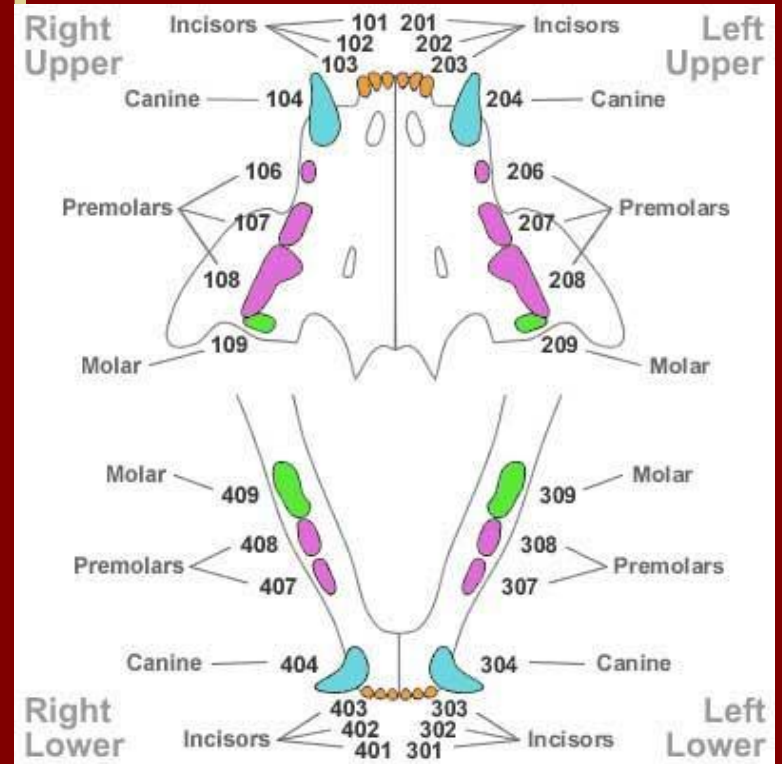
- Discuss “dental disease” in general (anatomy, process of DNT dz, clinical signs)
- What we (vets) do to treat disease (dental cleanings, x-rays, extractions and other therapies)
- What you (pet owners) can do for your pet’s oral health
- Demonstration on Gretta! Baxter can watch

# Teeth!



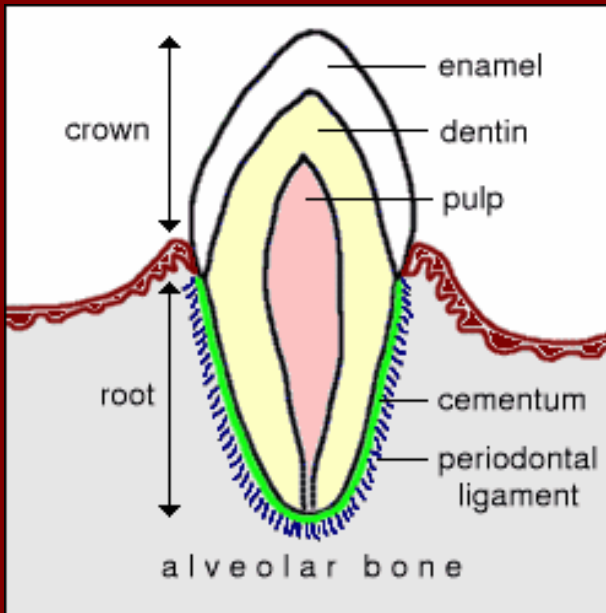
Dogs=  
42

Cats=  
30



ajilbab.com

<http://www.vohc.org/perio.htm>



vivo.colostate.edu



donnerbergrottweilers.com

# “Dental Disease”

- Most common disease in dogs and cats
- Includes many abnormalities and processes
  - plaque, tartar, periodontal disease (gingivitis, periodontitis), fractures, resorptive lesions, caries/cavities, halitosis, fistulas, bone infections, etc.
- Accumulation of plaque on teeth/gums and within the periodontal pocket
  - Leads to tartar and gingivitis
  - Weakens all structures involved
  - Becomes painful for pet
  - Ultimately leads to tooth loss/extraction if left untreated



# Signs of “Dental Disease”

- Bad breath.
- Loose teeth or teeth that are discolored or covered in tartar.
- Your pet shies away from you when you touch the mouth area.
- Drooling or dropping food from the mouth.
- Bleeding from the mouth.
- Loss of appetite or loss of weight

# NOT THE TIME!

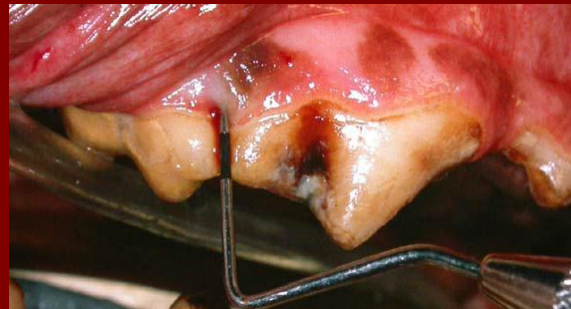
- If your pet already has “dental disease”, now is NOT the time to start at home dental care;
  - Tooth brushing is for prevention, not a treatment
  - This can be very painful for the pet and even cause more damage
  - Have your pet examined by a vet first
  - Your pet most likely needs a dental cleaning (COHAT) prior to owners doing anything for their pet at home



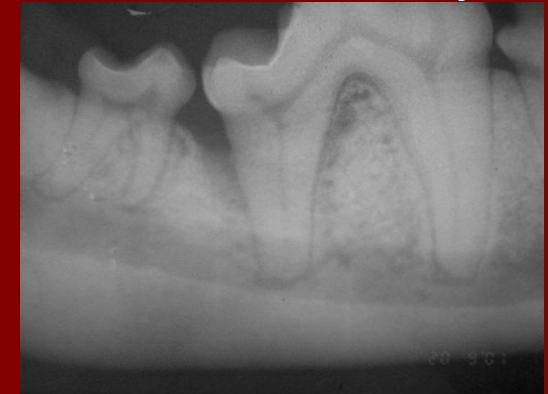
# What veterinarians do for “dental disease” (treatment)



•Oral exam<sup>1</sup>



Periodontal Probing<sup>1</sup>



•X-rays<sup>1</sup>

Dental  
cleaning  
(scale, polish,  
rinse)<sup>2</sup>



•Extractions/  
oral surgery<sup>1</sup>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.avdc.org/dentalcleaning.html>

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.toothvet.ca/PDFfiles/perio\\_hidden.pdf](http://www.toothvet.ca/PDFfiles/perio_hidden.pdf)



# At what age should your pet have a dental cleaning?

- And the answer is.....

# At what age should your pet have a dental cleaning?

- It can vary...
  - Sometimes by year one, sometimes by “middle-age”
- Biggest determining factor in a pet developing dental disease is.....

# At what age should your pet have a dental cleaning?

- Genetics
- Underlying contributing factors for periodontal disease is ~35% bacterial and ~65% pet's immune response

# What products to use?

- Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC)
  - Formed in the 1990s, grown since
  - Seal of Acceptance granted to products
  - Private companies (eg. Greenies®) submit research studies to obtain seal
  - Products without seal may still be effective
  - [www.vohc.org](http://www.vohc.org)

# What pet owners can do (prevention)



Dental Diets



Tooth Brush



Dental Chews/Treats



Dental Sprays



Dental Wipes



Appropriate toys



Drinking water additive

# Some Products & ingredients

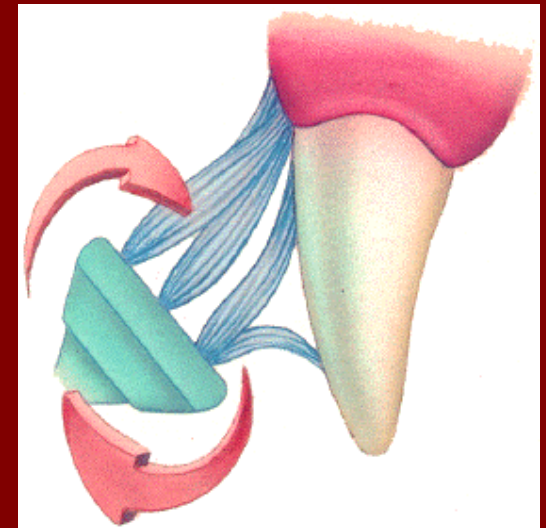
- CET/Virbac products
  - Dual-enzyme (antibacterial)
- Oral rinses
  - Chlorhexidine (antibacterial)
- Dental gel
  - Zinc (antibacterial), vitamin C (strengthen gums), taurine (improve breath)
- Dental diets
  - Sequestrants (decrease tartar formation)

# Brushing

- Gold standard of at-home dental care
- Ideally daily
- Toothpaste of little value, not required
- Requires training of pet (and owner)
  - Ideally, same person, time, and place
- Not a substitute for routine exams and veterinary care

# Brushing

- Start, and progress, slowly
- Begin with massaging, then using just a finger
- Start brushing in front, move back
- Hold brush with bristles at 45° angle
- Always reward your pet after completion (eg. treats, toys, affection)





# References

- VIN: Veterinary Information Network, [vin.com](http://vin.com), courtesy of Fraser Hale, DVM/AVDC (veterinary dentist, contributor to VIN)
- VOHC: Veterinary Oral Health Council, [vohc.org](http://vohc.org)
- Arizona Veterinary Dental Specialists, [azvetdentists.com](http://azvetdentists.com)
- Virbac®, [virbac.com](http://virbac.com)
- Greenies, [greenies.com](http://greenies.com)



free.clipartof.com

# Gretta?



thepoliticalcarnival.net

