



Dental Care Options

By Dr. Kevin Kettler

The dental care our practice provides is designed to address painful and infectious problems in the mouth, it is not simply limited to the common cosmetic "dental" cleaning. We have expanded our offerings to include 5 different oral health procedure packages.

Since nearly half of the serious problems in pets that cause chronic pain and infection are not detectable without x-rays of the tooth roots and supporting bone, it is impossible to give an accurate estimate of whether additional care will be needed until this information has been gathered. During the oral ATP procedure, we will call you with the results of our assessment and update you with any fees associated with addressing any problems we found; if you choose, we can address these while still under anesthesia, instead of having to return for a second anesthetic procedure at a later date. By addressing these issues all at once, savings of up to \$500 are realized over the cost of performing this work at a later time.

What is the difference between an oral ATP and a "dental"?

This is one of the most common questions we hear! The "old school" way of approaching pet dentistry was through the "dental": a purely cosmetic teeth cleaning, usually done under a short duration injectable anesthetic by a veterinary assistant. Although this is still a common practice, we promise that we won't do a "dental" on your pet! Instead, our procedures serve a specific purpose: to identify and address sources of chronic pain and infection that your pet silently endures.

Every year, new discoveries are made that further strengthen the link between dental health and chronic disease conditions, chronic pain, and pet life span. We know that periodontal disease is the number one cause of both chronic illness and chronic pain in both dogs and cats. Periodontal disease is closely linked to the top 3 causes of death in both dogs and cats, and has most recently been linked to the development of cancer. Because of these associations, we put a high priority on dental health.

Dental care serves a real purpose: to identify and address sources of chronic pain and infection that your pet silently endures.

Through carefully designed and properly performed procedures, we have the opportunity to eliminate the pain and infection of periodontal disease. We use complete anesthetic protocols, pain control, and patient monitoring to maximize your pet's safety and comfort throughout the procedure. A take-home report is generated for every patient, customized to specific needs, recommendations, and follow up care. We will meet with you on the morning of the procedure, and make sure all of your questions are answered – we want you to be comfortable with allowing us to help your pet on a path to better health!

