

Gilbert St Gossip

PET DENTAL MONTH

FREE—Dental Checks



We are celebrating healthy smiles and the well-being of our pets during August. August is Pet Dental Health Month at RivaPetz Pet Care and we will be offering FREE dental checks for your pets. We will check your pet's oral health and determine the best course of action to improve & maintain their pearly white teeth.

COME IN AND CHECK OUT OUR AWESOME DENTAL FOOD PROMOTION!

Buy one bag and get 50% OFF a second bag of Royal Canin Dental Food.

Call us to arrange a FREE dental check for your pet today. Ph.85821344.

The ins and outs of dental disease

There's no doubt about it, dental disease in our pets really stinks! It is one of the most common problems we see in veterinary practice and not only is it painful for your pet, the increased bacteria in the mouth can be associated with other conditions such as kidney disease, heart disease and liver disease. **As many as eight in ten pets have dental disease!**

WATCH OUT FOR:

- Smelly breath
- Drooling or dropping food from the mouth
- A loss of appetite or weight loss

What causes dental disease?

A lack of chewing sinew and muscle (such as pets would develop catching food in the wild) allows plaque and tartar to build up around the teeth. Loads of cheeky bacteria appear and this leads to inflammation and eventual loss of the attachments that hold the teeth in place.

What's the best treatment?

Dogs and cats with dental disease need a general anaesthetic to assess the teeth and clean thoroughly under the gum line. Teeth that are severely diseased and potentially painful are generally removed and this helps to prevent problems in the future.

Prevention is the key

Wet and soft food diets are notorious for allowing plaque and tartar to accumulate. It is vital that your pet is on a premium quality diet that helps to clean their teeth as they chew. Speak to us to find out the most appropriate diet for your pet.



It's flu season - can my pet get the flu?



It's a common question: can my pet get the flu? The answer is yes but unlike in humans, there isn't typically a flu season for dogs and cats and infection can occur year round.

Dogs can contract canine cough (incorrectly but often referred to as Kennel Cough) and cats can suffer from cat flu (commonly caused by a herpes virus).

Canine cough: is a highly contagious disease that's passed from dog to dog by moisture droplets. If not vaccinated, it's most likely your pet will catch this in the local park from another dog (or at boarding kennels). Vaccination is simple, effective and given annually. Your dog may still contract the infection but will thankfully be protected against the worst strains.

Cat flu: is also highly contagious and can cause severe illness, especially in elderly cats or kittens. Vaccination is highly effective and while it won't always prevent cats from developing flu, it helps reduce the severity of the condition. Flu vaccinations are given annually.

If you're unsure whether your pet is currently protected against these diseases, please call us and we'll be able to help.



Patient of the Month



Nitro has been a well cat, but for the past few months the owner had noticed that his breath was quite smelly. He was still eating well and happy, however his owner was concerned about his breath. Bad breath can be a sign of dental disease.

Nitro was then booked in for a dental check to see how bad his teeth were. Luckily, there was only mild plaque and tartar formation on most of his teeth, so he was immediately booked in for a Grade 1 dental. This is where pets undergo a quick anaesthetic and get their teeth scaled with a dental scaler and then polished. There was quite a bit more plaque on Nitro's back teeth but that was scaled away, causing no lasting damage.

Nitro was booked in just in time, if those teeth were left longer, serious dental disease would have developed. Nitro recovered well and is back at home with his 'pearly whites'.

Pets, like us need regular teeth cleaning, so we do recommend dental check-ups regularly.

