



WHATCOM ROAD VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Issue Date

FEB. 2010

Hospital Hours:

Mon. to Fri. 8am—6pm

Sat. 9am-2pm

#102-2100 Whatcom Road

Abbotsford, V3G 2K8

Ph# (604)850-0960

It's Back!

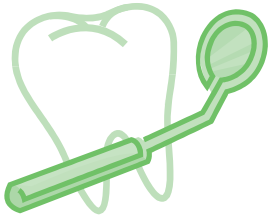
February is...

DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Dentals are 20% off during the month of February. To take advantage of this special offer:

- Schedule your dental exam within the last 10 days of January or during February
- All dentals must be scheduled within 4 weeks of the dental exam.

Learn more about dental health for your pet. View articles on our website at www.whatcomvet.com



EMAIL ADDRESSES

We really appreciate having your email address. A huge volume of mail is returned to us and the postal addresses are correct! To ensure you get your health reminders, let us know your current email address. Email us at info@whatcomvet.com

WHY DOES A DENTAL COST SO MUCH???

One of the most common questions we get asked is why a dental cleaning costs so much. Let us explain...

It's not just a cleaning. Cleaning is the easy part! We need to diagnose, assess and treat the pathology that has arisen due to the presence of tartar & calculus. This all occurs at the same time.

Your pet is under a full anaesthetic. Yes, dogs & cats won't let us work on their mouths awake to clean under the gum line, perform dental nerve blocks and extractions. Your pet's blood pressure, heart rate & ECG, oxygenation, and temperature are monitored while under an anesthetic.

Dentals take a long time. To perform a dental properly takes 1 to 3 hours. This is longer than an orthopaedic procedure (such as the repair of a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament).

Your pet has 1.5x as many teeth as you have! So it takes a lot longer to get those cleaned, assessed and treated than for you.

The roots of your pet's teeth are 3-5x the size of the crown you see. Carnivores need well seated teeth. This makes any potential extractions more difficult.

Many of the teeth in dogs & cats have multiple roots. We may be taking out only 1 tooth, but if it has 3 roots that go in divergent directions we need to split that tooth & remove each root independently. That single extraction turns into three extractions.

Some extractions are surgical. With some roots it may be necessary to make a gingival flap, drill through bone, and lift out the affected tooth. Those sites then need to be properly closed.

Your pet receives dental radiographs. Why? Because up to 40% of dental pathology can only be seen on radiographs. Decision making on treatment options needs assessment of root health which is only visible on radiographs.

Your pet will receive dental nerve blocks. These nerve blocks last longer than they do in people. We believe in pre-emptive pain control. Once these longer acting nerve blocks settle down, much of the inflammation & pain will have settled down allowing us not to medicate your pet as heavily.

We pack the extraction sites with antibiotics & bone building matrix. Due to large roots in small mouths, it's best if a matrix that encourages bone formation is placed in the socket.

We suture extraction sites closed. This helps ensure the bone building matrix stays in place & the risk of dry socket is reduced.

Dentals are anything but simple or easy!