

# Nameless News

Updates & Information from Falconbridge Animal Hospital & Village Veterinary Hospital  
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## September is Dental Month!

We will be offering a \$30 discount on all dentals performed during the month of September. If we have been recommending a dental cleaning for your pet, now is the time to book your appointment.

Just like people, pets' teeth can develop plaque and tartar. During a dental cleaning, our technicians will remove the plaque and tartar by ultrasonic scaling. After the veterinarian has examined the clean teeth, the technician will polish them and administer a fluoride treatment.

A dental cleaning is one of the most important procedures you can have done to impact the health of your pet. It is estimated that 80% of pets over the age of 2 have periodontal disease, which can lead to serious health issues such as severe pain and discomfort, tooth decay, and transmission of dangerous bacteria to the heart, lungs, and kidneys.

### Is Anesthesia Safe?

We do everything we can to make all anesthetic procedures safe and to keep your pet as comfortable as possible during and after the

procedure.

Each pet is given a physical exam the morning of the procedure. We also require bloodwork prior to any anesthesia. The bloodwork and exam allow us to tailor an anesthetic protocol specific to your pet.

During anesthesia your pet is kept on a warming blanket to maintain his body temperature at an appropriate level. We also monitor heart rate and blood oxygen level during anesthesia and administer IV fluids to help maintain blood pressure and hydration. If pain medication will be needed, we will administer it while the pet is under anesthesia. This will begin the pain management process and allow your pet to wake up more gently.

Any needed medications will be administered in the hospital and sent home to manage pain or fight infection.

If your pet is in need of an anesthesia procedure and you have concerns about their safety and comfort, we recommend discussing your concerns with the veterinarian.

### Canine Teeth

Did you know an adult dog normally has 42 teeth? A broken or decayed

tooth may be very painful but interestingly most pets will never let you know there is a problem. An examination of your dog's teeth by one of our trained technicians can aid in finding a problem early. So if your dog is having trouble chewing kibble, seems sensitive around his mouth, appears to have oral pain, or an unusual smell please call for an appointment.

### Resorptive Lesions

We don't know what causes them, but we do know they are very painful. Resorptive lesions are a common dental problem in cats of all ages. The teeth affected by this disease erode from the inside out. The best treatment is to extract the affected teeth. If your cat has lesions, he will be happy to be rid of those extremely painful teeth!

## So we don't remain "Nameless"

We are searching for a name for our newsletter and would love input from all our fellow animal lovers out there! Please visit our newly revamped website at [www.FalconbridgeAnimal.com](http://www.FalconbridgeAnimal.com) and use the "Email Us" link at the bottom of the page to send us your ideas by September 10th. The creator of the chosen name earns a free exam for one of his/her pets. If the same name is submitted twice the first entry is the winner.

## At Home Dental Care

There is no substitute for a professional cleaning once tartar has formed on your pet's teeth, but you can help prevent build up, reducing the frequency that full cleanings are needed. The best way to do that is daily brushing.



Cayenne & Mocha Bean getting their daily brushing by Angela

### Brushing Your Pet's Teeth

Always use a toothpaste that is formulated for cats or dogs. There are several kinds of pet toothbrushes but a soft child's toothbrush is also a good option. It is easiest to start brushing when the pet is young, but even older animals will benefit from regular brushing.

- To introduce your pet to brushing, wrap a gauze or washcloth without

toothpaste around your finger and use it like a toothbrush on the pet's teeth. Wipe all the teeth, front and back, with strokes from the gumline to the tip of the tooth. Do this for one to two weeks until your pet is familiar with having the gums and teeth rubbed.

- Gradually work up to a soft toothbrush and plain water. After a week of using a soft toothbrush, add a small amount of special dog or cat toothpaste. Never use human toothpaste, as the fluoride will irritate the pet's stomach.
- Begin by brushing the front teeth and then the large upper and lower teeth in the back. The bristles should be held at a 45-degree angle to the tooth surface and be moved in an oval direction. Scrub in the crevice where the gums meet the teeth, as this is where odor and infection begin.

Even though brushing is the best form of at home dental care, not all pets will tolerate it. For those pets we have many other ways to prevent tartar build up. Ask us about oral rinses, water additives, dental diets, and dental chews.



### Fleas in Fall

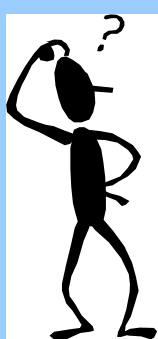
Did you know that fleas are a lot like people? They hate really cold weather AND really hot weather. That means that just like you they are going to be out getting into trouble more when it's nice outside. So as temperatures start to dip remember to continue using flea prevention for all your pets. If you do have an infestation it can take about 3 months to clear fleas from your home even if you are doing everything right, so don't get discouraged.



### Steps For Flea Prevention & Control

Always use a veterinarian recommended monthly prevention on all household pets—even indoor pets can hide fleas in your home. If you see fleas:

- Check your prevention schedule to be sure you are on track.
- Readminister routine prevention if appropriate.
- Wash all bedding and vacuum your home thoroughly and throw away the vacuum bag.
- Use a whole home treatment to kill fleas. Follow label directions carefully!
- Repeat home treatment per label instructions to help break the flea lifecycle.



### Did You Know . . . ?

- Dogs have 42 teeth—12 incisors, 4 canine teeth, 16 premolars, and 10 molars.
- Cats have 30 teeth—12 incisors, 10 premolars, 4 canines, and 4 molars.
- Tartar turns to Plaque in 48 to 72 hours.
- A female flea can lay 40 eggs in 1 day.
- A flea can stay in its cocoon for 174 days (almost 6 months!) before emerging.
- An Adult flea can live on an untreated pet or in an untreated home for 3 months.