

Oral Treatment Key:

A: An Oral Hygiene Programme

No problems noted today. **An oral hygiene programme** should be advised to keep the teeth and periodontal tissues in optimal health. Periodontal disease is a progressive inflammatory disease caused by plaque accumulation on the surface of the tooth and leads to destruction of the attachment apparatus of the tooth. Periodontal disease affects up to 75% of all dogs and cats. Daily

toothbrushing is recommended as the gold standard to keep teeth plaque-free and help reduce the onset of periodontal diseases. Daily toothbrushing will also alert an owner to other potential dental problems such as fractured teeth or oral masses. Dental chews can also form part of an oral hygiene programme. Three-monthly dental health checks are recommended to ensure adequate home care.

B: Early Periodontal Disease

This pet may have early **periodontal disease**. If no further oral problems are identified, start daily toothbrushing. Follow-up checks should be carried out weekly to ensure that the clinical

signs are resolving. If not, further work up or examination under general anaesthesia may be warranted.

C: Mouth Examination Under General Anaesthesia

Uncertain findings and a **full mouth examination under general anaesthesia** is warranted. Each tooth should be systematically evaluated and all findings recorded. A periodontal probe (to check for attachment loss around the tooth) and explorer probe (used to check surface defects such as areas

of decay or whether the pulp is exposed) are instruments required to examine the tooth. Further diagnostic tests for example intra-oral radiographs may be indicated to assess the root structure or surrounding bone. Biopsy of any soft tissue lesion or mass may also be required.

D: Oral Treatment Under General Anaesthesia

Dental and **oral treatment under general anaesthesia** is required. There is enough evidence from the conscious clinical examination to indicate that this pet requires

dental treatment. A full mouth examination as detailed above is required to assess the mouth fully and a more thorough treatment plan formulated.

DENTAL DECISION TREATMENT GUIDE

This guide enables a stepwise approach to a full examination of a patient's mouth. This guide is aimed at helping with decision-making as to whether further investigation or treatment is required. The checklist encourages a systematic approach to identifying oral and dental pathology and can be used in combination with the Pedigree® and Whiskas® dental presenters for a better understanding of dental disease in dogs and cats.



Around 75 per cent of dogs in the UK suffer from Periodontal disease. However, research shows that less than five per cent of dog owners are aware of the condition. Dental Care Month is a high profile nationwide campaign, brought to you by Pedigree® DentaStix®. Dedicated to improving the health of dogs' teeth and gums, Together, we can raise awareness of this important issue for pet owners across the nation. For more information about DentaStix® visit www.uk.pedigree.com



Pedigree and DentaStix are registered trademarks of Mars. ©. 2012

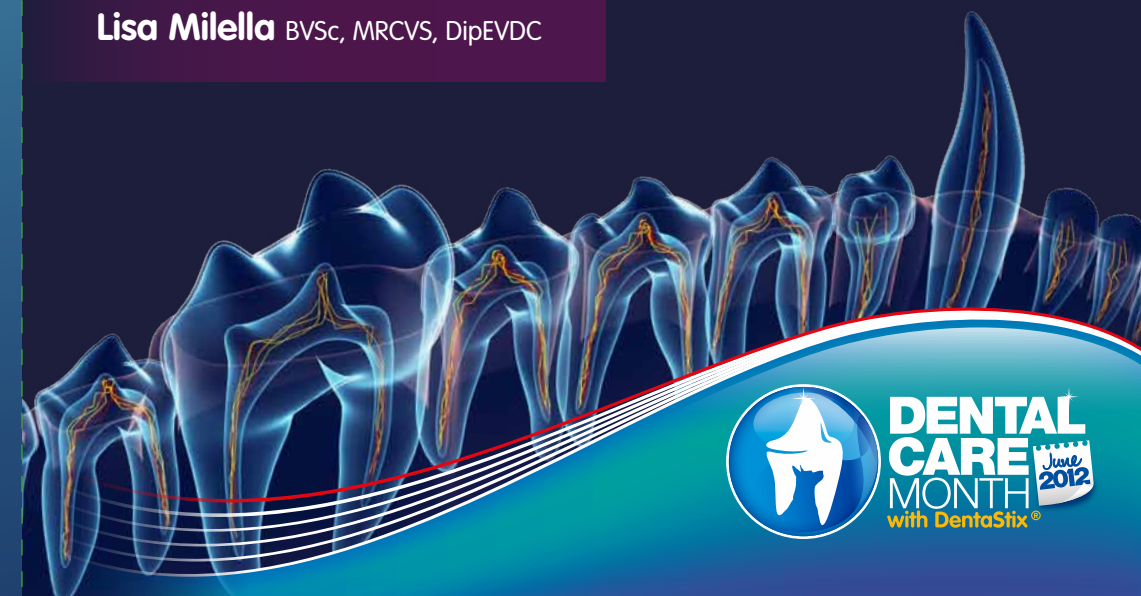


DENTAL DECISION TREATMENT GUIDE

A three-step checklist examining all aspects of the mouth and teeth to help formulate a treatment plan based on the clinical findings. A full oral examination includes all three steps.

Endorsed by

Lisa Milella BVSc, MRCVS, DipEVD



STEP 1: EXAMINE HEAD EXTERNALLY

Visual symmetry				
Normal?	A			
Abnormal?			C	
External palpation				
No reaction?	A		C	
Sensitive?			C	D
Muscles, eyes, ears				
Normal?	A			
Abnormal?			C	
Lymph node palpation (mandibular & retropharyngeal)				
Normal?	A			
Abnormal			C	D

Most pet owners will not be aware that their pet has an oral problem so an examination of the oral cavity should be part of every physical examination. Oral examination in a conscious animal will only give limited information and a definitive oral examination can only be performed under general anaesthesia.



The upper carnassial tooth showing gingivitis, gingival recession and marked calculus accumulation – an indication for further examination under general anaesthesia.

A: An Oral Hygiene Programme

B: Early Periodontal Disease

C: Mouth Examination Under General Anaesthesia

D: Oral Treatment Under General Anaesthesia

STEP 2: LIFT LIPS AND EXAMINE BUCCAL SURFACE OF THE TEETH AND ORAL MUCOSA

Occlusion				
Normal for the breed/comfortable?	A			
Any signs of soft tissue trauma?				D
Buccal mucous membranes				
Normal?	A			
Abnormal – inflamed or ulcerated?				D
Calculus visible buccal surfaces				
Associated with gingival inflammation?				D
More prevalent on certain teeth/arcades?				D
Gingival margin				
Normal?	A			
Inflamed or swollen?		B		D
Receding?			C	
Loose Teeth				
Yes?				D
No?	A			
Halitosis				
No visible cause for the halitosis?		B		
Visible clinical problem/no response to treatment?				D
Fractured Teeth				
Pulp exposed? Either vital (pink spot) or necrotic (black spot)?				D
Unsure if pulp exposed?			C	
Other lesions? Trauma, neoplasia, other soft tissue pathology?				
Yes?			C	D
No?	A			

STEP 3: OPEN MOUTH EXAMINATION

Palatal/lingual surfaces				
Normal?	A			
Abnormal?			C	
Occlusal pits in molars				
Normal?	A		C	
Staining/discolouration in pits of the occlusal surface?			C	D
Hard palate/tonsillar area/fauces				
Normal?	A			
Abnormal?			C	
Tongue dorsal/ventral				
Normal?	A			
Abnormal?			C	D

The mouth is first examined by gently holding the jaws closed and retracting the lips (do not pull on the fur to retract lips). This allows you to look at the soft tissues and the buccal aspects of the teeth. The occlusion can also be evaluated. The animal is then encouraged to open its mouth –



one hand is placed over the muzzle and the lips are gently pressed into the oral cavity, while tilting the head slightly upwards. A finger from the other hand is placed on the lower incisors to gently open the mouth. Do not use the fur under the mandible to try to pull the jaw down.

