

# Your Dog (or Cat) Needs a Dental Cleaning.

I know, right? I'm not normally so 'absolute' with stuff! 😊

## SUMMARY:

1. I have to put a stop to infection and I need to stop the teeth from rotting *into* the head.
2. I'd like Heather to prepare you an idea of costs.
3. Then I would have your critter brought into the office one morning and we'll scale the teeth, remove the rotten ones, and get rid of infection. They go home the same day.
4. It involves general anesthesia, and, in the dogs over 7 or 8 years old, they have bloodwork to check organ function.
5. They usually go home on an antimicrobial and some pain meds where appropriate. **Any tooth that's rotting or loose should be REMOVED so it's not 'next year's problem.'**

**Overview:** Dogs and cats get infections in their mouths and their teeth start rotting into their faces. That is when I step up and say "Your dog or cat needs a dental"

Oral infections travel into the airways, sinuses, internal organs and contribute HEAVILY to chronic HEART disease. **If your dog has a heart murmur, there is a 70% chance that it was caused by dental infection.** Besides, rotting teeth are painful, and as you know: Stinky.

Until I see consequential dental disease, I politely recommend dental exercise. Scrapey (crust-breaking) dental exercise. But if you've gotten this sheet, plain dental exercise has failed.

**First:** You should know that I do NOT endorse dental cleaning on an "annual" basis, or "just because" like some places do. It's based on *deteriorating* CONDITION. And it's not for some minor staining.

Each tooth is examined for patency and condition. We remove teeth that have less than 12 months to remain. It's desirable that certain teeth don't become 'next year's problem'.

After dental cleaning there are techniques and technologies to prevent EVER NEEDING ANOTHER DENTAL!

You'll get instructions on how to prevent the need for another dental. Even dogs that won't chew stuff can get other methods to prevent re-accumulation of tartar. Some dogs are cool with brushing, others with effective water additives, even little doggie oral sprays.

Dogs go home the same day as the procedure and do NOT stay overnight.

Sometimes, a dog's rotting teeth and gums can be so horrific that they're the WORST part of being old. Sometimes the most satisfying work we do is removing 'rotting face' from an old dog's list of very-unpleasant experiences.