

## Top 5 Dental Issues in Dogs

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### Periodontal Disease

-Even if your dog's teeth look pearly white and clean, studies show that 80-90% of dogs over the age of 3 have some component of periodontal disease. It's worse in smaller breeds, and the incidence increases with age. Plaque is the main culprit of periodontal disease, especially underneath the gums.

### Fractured Tooth

-Fractured teeth are a common occurrence in dogs and can result from external trauma or from chewing on hard objects such as bones or non-bending chew toys. The most frequently broken teeth in the dog are the canine teeth, and the large upper pointy cheek teeth in the back of the mouth.

### Deciduous Teeth

-Puppies have 28 deciduous teeth also known as primary teeth. Adult dogs have 42 permanent teeth. When a deciduous tooth is still present at the time that the permanent tooth has begun to erupt, it is referred to as a persistent tooth. When this happens, the baby tooth occupies the place in the mouth that is meant for the permanent tooth, forcing the permanent tooth to erupt in an abnormal position.

# Pet Care Center at Luna Park

## February is Dental Health Month

February marks Dental Health Month in the veterinary community. While dental health is important every day of the year, we like to take this time to really highlight the benefits of good oral hygiene for our pets. Oral hygiene is important not just for prevention of bad breath but also helps in the following areas:

- Prevention of Tooth Decay
- Screening for Oral Cancers
- Pet Comfort
- Screening for Odontoclastic Resorptive Lesions (a painful occurrence in our pet friends that causes the body to break-down the teeth)
- Promoting Heart Health
- Prevention of Gingivitis

We are so excited for Dental Health Month in February that we are offering a \$75 discount on anesthetic dental cleanings for cats and dogs.

ALSO, our friends at Purina are giving away a free box of dental chewz for dogs that get a cleaning throughout the month. In addition to the above, we are also offering \$5 off per bag of Purina DH for **cats and dogs** throughout the month of February!

[Click here to learn what A Day at The Dentist looks like!](#)



Before...



... and after!

## Abscessed Tooth

-A tooth abscess – also known as a dentoalveolar abscess, root abscess, or simply tooth infection is an infection stemming from the tooth's root. In essence, it is a pus-filled pocket brought on by bacteria. If you've noticed swelling develop beneath your dog's eye, it could be a tooth abscess. It can happen for several reasons, but they are all associated with intense pain, and if left untreated, it can cause serious medical conditions.

## Loose Teeth

-Puppies will typically start to lose their baby teeth at four months of age to allow their adult teeth to grow in their place. Losing baby teeth is a normal part of life, but losing adult teeth is often a sign of either advanced gum disease or physical trauma.

## Three Simple Steps to Start Brushing

### What you'll need:



### A pet friendly toothbrush and toothpaste.

(people toothpaste can be harmful when ingested by our pets)

### 1. Start with a massage

Get your pet used to the idea of brushing by gently massaging the lips and gradually moving to the gums and teeth.

### 2. Add toothpaste

Put a dab of pet-friendly toothpaste on your finger to get your pet used to the taste and feel of it.

### 3. Introduce the toothpaste

Hold the brush at a 45° angle and clean in small circular motions working on one part of the mouth at a time.

**Even with regular brushing, pets need to have their teeth professionally cleaned every year.**

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# Employee of the month!!!

**Sponsored by our friends at Purina:**



Congratulations Mary!!! Mary's knowledge and care for our  
patients is outstanding. We appreciate everything you bring to the  
team!