

## Stage 3 Periodontal Disease

During our dental examination today, your pet was estimated to have Stage 3 Periodontal Disease. Full determination of the level of disease will be done under general anesthesia during the procedure.

In Stage 3 Periodontal Disease, the bacteria present in the plaque and tartar has contributed to infection and inflammation of the tissues around the tooth, including the gums and even bone. This infection has progressed to the extent that there is moderate to significant loss of these supportive tissues and some teeth are at risk. This tissue loss may be evident as periodontal pockets (a space between the tooth and gum that can retain further plaque bacteria) or gum and bone recession that can cause root exposure.

With this extent of tissue destruction already evident, we recommend that you schedule the dental cleaning and periodontal therapy as soon as possible. Pre-operative management involving blood work and medications may be indicated. In Stage 3 Periodontal Disease therapy, decisions will be made to determine the extent of tissue destruction at each tooth and if it is extensive enough to consider extraction. Many factors play into these decisions, from the tooth under evaluation and extent of disease, to the overall health of the patient, to the level of commitment that will be necessary from you, the owner, to maintain these teeth with regular home care and additional therapy. Medications such as antibiotics, even ones used in the pockets, are often necessary to help in the fight against the infection. The presence of a chronic oral infection can impact your pet's overall health.

Good home care will be essential to stop further destruction. After periodontal therapy, using an oral solution or gel will be easier on your pet than extensively brushing. After 3 to 5 days, gradually reintroduce regular (daily) tooth brushing with a veterinary tooth paste into your pet's routine. If an antibiotic has been used in the periodontal pockets, the gels may be used for 14 days and brushing can start after our re-examination appointment at that time.

With this level of disease, it will be important to return on a regular basis (every 6 months) for dental examinations. If persistent disease is found, dental therapy may be scheduled immediately. If home care efforts have been successful, the therapy may be delayed a bit longer.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Visit us online at [www.WhiteBearAnimalHospital.com](http://www.WhiteBearAnimalHospital.com).

### **WHITE BEAR ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

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