

Intermountain Pet Hospital March Newsletter

New and current (Oral ATP):

To assist with the cost of maintaining good oral health, through the months of January-March we offer a **15% savings** on standard oral ATP prices. This includes all dogs, cats and ferrets.

All of our dental X-rays are done with digital radiography, which allows us to evaluate all the teeth in the mouth more quickly and shorten the time that the animal must remain under anesthesia.

Drs. Barry Rathfon and Nell Dalton are trained in endodontics to complete either vital pulpotomies or root canals.

We have samples of most of our dental hygiene products. Please don't hesitate to ask for a sample.

Like your dog's smile? Enjoy licks in the face? If you do, then you appreciate clean teeth.

The Big Picture

Dogs, just like humans, have thousands of types of bacteria in their mouths. Those bacteria live off nutrients from your dog's food and saliva. As they multiply on the surface of the teeth, they form soft, sticky "plaque". It takes seven days for plaque to become tarter. Plaque can be removed easily, while tarter cannot.

As tarter builds up along the gum-line, the gums become irritated and bleed, allowing bacteria into your pet's bloodstream. The bacteria travel throughout the body causing inflammation, and possibly infection, in the heart, liver, kidneys, spleen, and other vital organs. The bacteria also cause infection in the mouth, leading to bone and gum loss, and eventually the roots of the teeth become infected.

What is Oral ATP?

You may have heard the term "dental" in the past to describe tooth cleanings, but it can mean a wide range of levels of care depending on the clinic. For a more accurate description of what we do at Intermountain Pet Hospital, the term "dental" has been replaced by **Oral ATP** for oral "Assessment, Treatment, and Prevention" (as recommended by the American Veterinary Dental College).

- .. **Assessment:** Evaluate the health of the teeth before and after cleaning
 - o Clean all tooth surfaces
 - o Probe and measure all gum lines
 - o Examine crowns for any fractures or cavities
 - o X-ray the teeth with a digital X-ray to evaluate the tooth roots and the surrounding ligaments and bone. We can also check for any retained roots left from previous extractions or buried teeth.

- .. **Treatment:** All procedures are completed after the assessment
 - o Polish and apply fluoride to the teeth after cleaning
 - o Treat any diseased teeth, whether above or below the gum line
 - o Disease treatments include:
 - Antibiotic gel for deep gum pockets
 - Tooth extraction
 - Endodontics (vital pulpotomy and root canal)

- .. **Prevention:** After cleaning/treatment, preventive measures reduce future tooth disease and the frequency of treatments. We can inform you about methods that are both effective and easy for you to use, including:
 - Brushing with pet tooth-paste (daily for best results)
 - Oravet: wax-based coating that is applied initially in the hospital when the teeth are cleaned, then re-applied by you at home to protect the surfaces of the teeth from plaque build-up.
 - Drinking water additive
 - Rawhide dog treats with antibacterial coating
 - T/d diet from Hill's for both cats and dogs. This diet can be used as a pet's sole diet or used as treats (also Ok for ferrets as a treat).
 - Fish-based dental treats for cats
 - Oral rinses and gels

Now you know!

Oral health is an extremely important part of your pet's overall health. We want to help you help your pet maintain good healthy teeth and gums. We can tailor an oral care plan for your pet that is manageable for you and provides the most benefit for your pet.