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The importance of dental care for your animal companion

March 02, 2015 3:31 pm • By Dennis Buckley

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The Coalition for Pet Protection has had helped with several cats needing dental care.

As with humans, dental health in dogs and cats is very important. Gum disease, infected teeth, and other mouth issues can greatly diminish an animal's health and well-being. If dental issues are not addressed, infection can set in. Left unchecked, this infection can lead to heart problems, arthritis, and even certain cancers.

Make an appointment with your veterinarian if you see any of these problems.

1. Your pet's breath has an abnormally strong odor.
2. Gums are not firm and pink.
3. Gums are swollen, or there is a red line along the gum line.
4. If there are any ulcers in the mouth
5. Loose teeth
6. Excessive drooling or pawing at the mouth.
7. Any inflammation in the gum tissue. Inflammation can also be a sign of other diseases.

Your vet can recommend proper treatment for your animal. It will be important to regularly clean the teeth once the treatment is finished. This is best accomplished by starting slowly. Let your animal get used to checking out his mouth, and any brush you may use.

Always use a toothpaste made only for pets, or a paste of baking soda. Good nutrition is also tied in with healthy mouths. Feed only good quality food, it will save money in the long run. Patience and sticking to the plan will greatly increase your pet's quality of life...and lead to a great smile, too.

The Coalition for Pet Protection was founded in 1992. It is a local, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. We offer an emergency animal food pantry, and financial assistance for feline medical care. All donations are used locally, and are tax-deductible.

More information can be found on FaceBook, www.petcoalition.org, or by calling (402) 434-7922.

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