

THE WHOLE TOOTH



**Pet Dental
Services
Newsletter
Vol 2, Issue 2
Spring/Summer
2008**

Welcome to the latest issue of the Pet Dental Services Newsletter "The Whole Tooth". I hope you find the articles informative and useful. If you have any suggestions for topics you would like see covered in future issues, please email me - enquiries@petdentalservices.com.au

Making Dentistry Easier

For many vets, dentistry is a dirty word - the thought of having to extract a tooth such as a canine fills them with dread! Unfortunately for our patients, this sometimes means we avoid looking for dental problems, so we don't have to deal with them.

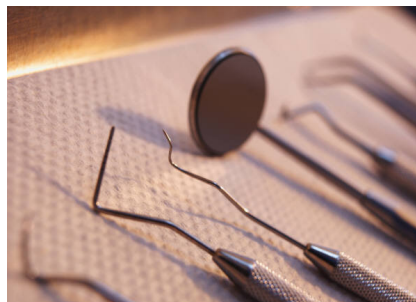
Sadly for many of us, dentistry was not something we were taught well at university. As with most things, dentistry can be incredibly difficult and frustrating if you don't know how to do it properly. Add to this inadequate equipment and it's easy to see why dentistry causes so many headaches.

Here's a few hints to help make dentistry that bit easier and less stressful!

1. Get some good quality dental hand instruments and look after them. We wouldn't consider doing any other sort of surgery with bent, broken or blunt equipment - why should dentistry be any different? A basic dental kit should include a dental explorer and periodontal probe, hand scalers and curettes and dental mirror. Dental elevators in a range of sizes and shapes (winged or regular) will allow you to extract most teeth. A periosteal elevator, needle holders, forceps, scissors are also necessary when creating mucogingival flaps. One vital piece of equipment often

overlooked is the sharpening stone. Dental instruments are most effective when they are sharp and ideally should be sharpened every time they are used. Instruments with a curved working end (eg elevators, curettes) should be sharpened using a conical sharpening stone to avoid damage.

2. Power dental equipment. Having access to air-driven power dental equipment makes dentistry a whole lot easier. A high-speed handpiece (the dreaded dentist drill) allows rapid alveolar bone removal and tooth sectioning prior to extraction. A high-speed handpiece is vital for those interested in moving on to more advanced dental procedures. Second-hand air-driven human dental bases are sometimes available through the larger equipment wholesalers, Australian Dental Association classifieds and even on eBay.



Continued on page 2

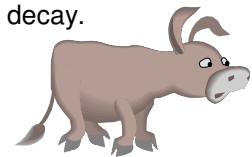
Did you know.....

The dandelion plant was named "dent-de-lion", meaning "tooth of the lion" in French because the jagged leaf resembled

a lion's teeth.



During the Middle Ages in Germany, you would have been advised to kiss a donkey in order to relieve your toothache. People during that time also believed that dogs' teeth boiled in wine made an excellent mouth rinse for tooth decay.



Are you interested in veterinary dentistry?

Why not join the Australian Veterinary Dental Society, a special interest group of the AVA. See the AVDS website www.petdental.com.au for more information.

Pet Dental Services Newsletter

"Focusing on Pet Oral Health"

PO Box 137
Dianella
Perth WA 6059

Phone: 0419 905 008
Fax: (08) 6267 8176
E-mail: Lcyvet@iinet.net.au
www.petdentalservices.com.au

Pet Dental Services provides a fully mobile small animal dentistry referral service to Perth veterinary clinics and hospitals. Why mobile? So clinics can provide a greater range of services 'in-house', without the need for new equipment and training. Clients and patients have the convenience and comfort of remaining at their regular clinic, with people they know and trust!

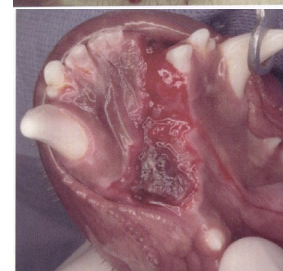
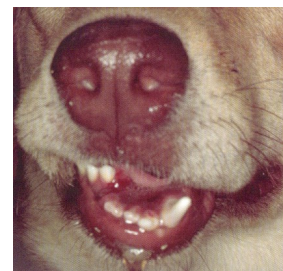
For more information on the range of services available, advice or general enquires, please contact Dr Lian Yeap, Pet Dental Services, 0419 905 008 or visit my website www.petdentalservices.com.au

Tooth Trauma - Avulsion & Luxation

Complete (avulsion) or partial (luxation) displacement of a tooth from its socket may occur secondary to trauma. If treated quickly, the affected tooth can often be saved. An avulsed tooth needs to be kept moist (to keep the periodontal ligament alive), ideally in saliva, milk or cold water. The tooth should be cleaned as little as possible to avoid destroying the periodontal ligament cells. Once re-implanted, the tooth needs to be splinted to allow it to stabilise. As the blood supply to the pulp is severed, root canal therapy is recommended about 2 weeks after re-implantation. Splinting may be required for 4-6 weeks.

Although still within the alveolus, luxated teeth usually also have a damaged blood supply and require similar treatment of splinting and root canal therapy.

In cases of severe periodontal disease predisposing to avulsion/luxation, affected teeth should be extracted and the alveolus closed. With severe trauma, salvage may not be possible and extraction may be required.



Photos courtesy of Dr Tony Caiafa

Continued from Page 1

3. Continuing education. Learning the correct techniques for performing a complete dental examination, prophylaxis, surgical extractions etc will make dentistry that much easier. The Australian Veterinary Dental Society runs dental wetlabs at most AVA annual conferences. If you can't leave the clinic, hands on training in-house can be arranged.

You can even update your dental knowledge online or via distance education with CE providers such as VIN running online veterinary dentistry modules.

Dentistry can be a rewarding part of practice for both vets and patients alike. Avoid dental denial - flip the lip and tackle dental problems head on. If you need it, help is only a phone call (or email) away!

AVA Annual Conference, Perth May 2008

The Australian Veterinary Dental Society ran another successful dentistry wetlab at the AVA Perth conference. 40 participants spent the day practicing a range of procedures including surgical extractions, local nerve blocks and intra-oral radiography. 8 demonstrators were on hand to assist participants. Instruments and equipment were kindly provided by iM3 and Provet WA. If you missed out on the wetlab, look out for the Australian Veterinary Dental Society Conference planned for Tungalooma, Queensland in 2009.



If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact me via email - enquiries@petdentalservices.com.au

Wishing everyone all the best for the festive season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year