



**FRANKTOWN  
ANIMAL CLINIC**  
Compassionate care for pets and their people.

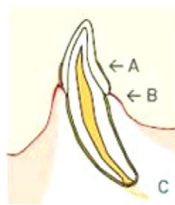


# DENTAL CARE FOR YOUR PET

## Understanding Dental Disease

Dental disease in pets progresses through four grades:

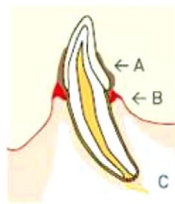
### GRADE 1



**Mild Gingivitis:** Characterized by red, inflamed gums without attachment loss. This stage is reversible with professional cleaning and good home care.

A) Plaque and calculus deposit. B) Inflamed gingiva. C) Zero bone loss. Pocket depth <2mm.

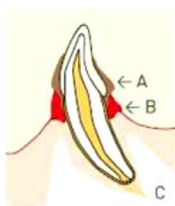
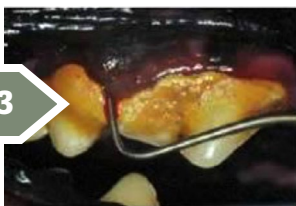
### GRADE 2



**Moderate Gingivitis/Early Periodontitis:** Shows increased redness, swelling, and plaque buildup with some early bone loss.

A) Plaque and calculus extend down to root. B) Pocket forming with pocket depth 2-4mm. C) Mild bone loss. Gingival recession. Furcation exposure.

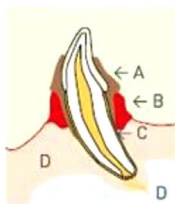
### GRADE 3



**Moderate Periodontitis:** Involves significant inflammation, bleeding, and moderate bone loss. Teeth may start to loosen.

A) Plaque and calculus extend further down. B) Deepening pocket with pocket depth 4-8mm. C) Extensive bone reduction with 25-50% bone loss. Ulcerated gingiva.

### GRADE 4



**Severe Periodontitis:** Features severe bone loss, deep pockets, loose or missing teeth, and possible infection that can spread to other organs.

A) Extensive plaque and calculus. B) Severe inflammation. C) Deep pocket with pocket depth 8mm. D) Severe bone and gum loss with 50% bone loss. Significant loss of gingiva.

## Watch for Signs of Dental Disease

- Bad breath
- Red, swollen, or bleeding gums
- Loose or missing teeth
- Difficulty eating or chewing
- Drooling excessively
- Pawing at the mouth or face
- Swelling on one side of the face
- Behavioral changes such as irritability or withdrawal





## Dental Procedure Protocols

At Franktown Animal Clinic, we are committed to providing the highest standard of dental care:

- **Pre-Operative Bloodwork:** We perform pre-operative bloodwork to ensure your pet is healthy enough for anesthesia and to identify any underlying health concerns.
- **Full Anesthesia:** All dental procedures are performed under full anesthesia to ensure safety, thoroughness, and comfort.
- **Full Mouth Radiographs:** We take full mouth radiographs during every dental procedure to assess the health of the teeth below the gumline, where most dental disease occurs.
- **Full Mouth Dental Cleaning and Polishing:** We provide thorough cleaning and polishing of all teeth to remove plaque and tartar, helping to prevent future dental disease.



## Post-Procedure Care Instructions

- **Monitoring:** After your pet's dental procedure, watch for signs of discomfort, swelling, bleeding, or changes in behavior.
- **Feeding:** Offer soft food for 7 to 14 days if extractions were performed. Follow any specific dietary instructions provided.
- **Medications:** Administer all prescribed medications exactly as directed.
- **Activity:** Limit vigorous activity for 24-48 hours post-procedure.

## At-Home Dental Care Recommendations

Maintaining your pet's dental health at home is crucial.

- **Daily Brushing:** Use a pet-safe toothbrush and toothpaste. Aim for daily brushing to reduce plaque and tartar buildup.
- **Dental Chews and Toys:** Provide dental chews approved by the Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC) to help clean teeth.
- **Regular Check-Ups:** Schedule regular veterinary exams to monitor your pet's dental health.

**For any questions about your pet's dental health or to schedule an appointment, please contact Franktown Animal Clinic.**

**Your pet's healthy smile is our priority!**



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**7658 Burning Tree Drive, Franktown, CO 80116 • 303-688-4690 • [FranktownAnimalClinic.com](http://FranktownAnimalClinic.com)**