



IT'S NEVER TOO LATE: SENIORS NEED DENTAL CARE TOO.

As our pets age, their immune systems become less effective at fighting off bacterial and viral diseases. Worn or missing teeth may affect their ability to chew their food and may lead to upset stomachs or regurgitation. Seniors often soldier on hiding their oral pain until it becomes unbearable. Our senior pets are more likely to develop more severe forms of gum disease, tooth resorptions, and some unlucky pets will develop oral masses. Signs and symptoms to look out for in seniors with oral diseases are listed below.

Bad breath – this may indicate:

- 🐾 Periodontal disease
- 🐾 Stomatitis
- 🐾 Broken teeth
- 🐾 Tooth resorptions
- 🐾 Kidney disease and uraemic ulcers
- 🐾 Diabetes mellitus and accelerated gum disease
- 🐾 Liver, stomach, gastrointestinal complaints with vomiting
- 🐾 Tumours with necrotic or dying tissues i.e. cats with squamous cell carcinoma beneath the tongue
- 🐾 Oral foreign bodies
- 🐾 Dental decay (especially in toy breeds).

Nasal discharge/ infections – this may indicate:

- 🐾 Chronic oronasal fistula due to periodontal disease
- 🐾 Advanced oral tumours.

Poor appetite/picky eating – this may indicate:

- 🐾 Periodontal disease
- 🐾 Tumours
- 🐾 Broken teeth and abscesses
- 🐾 Systemic diseases such as renal or liver disease
- 🐾 Oral foreign bodies - stuck bones
- 🐾 Dental decay.

What can you do? It's never too late to treat oral diseases!

Regular dental checks with a thorough whole body/oral examination at least yearly will help minimise the risk of oral disease as well as:

- 🐾 Active Homecare and dental friendly diets and chews
- 🐾 Professional cleans and where necessary tooth extractions. Often blood and urine testing is required prior to general anaesthesia.

