



Pet News

Psychotropics Animal Health Division Publication



pil

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From the Editor's Desk.....

Dear Veterinarians,

Often, oral hygiene of pets is ignored, a major reason being ignorance of pet owner himself about the importance of maintaining oral hygiene of pets.



PIL recently launched the Pet Dentagel. We believe that it is our duty to create awareness about oral hygiene of pets in order to reduce the suffering that a pet may have to go through at a later stage. PIL has attempted to do so by making the Pet Dentagel pack informative and putting an educative insert in the pack. Our product pack also conveys that scaling of pet's teeth must be done regularly by an experienced veterinarian for good oral hygiene of pet.

The role of veterinarians is most important in creating this awareness. Veterinarian is the pet owner's sole guide for taking care of pets. We urge veterinarians to educate pet owners visiting them about oral hygiene of pets.

Regards

Geetika Rao

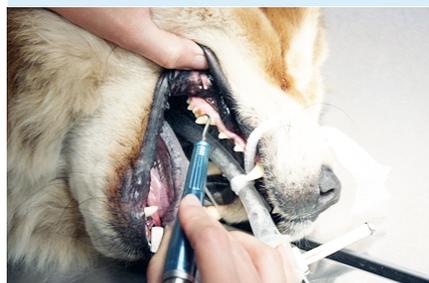
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In this Edition

- Editor's Message
- Pet Oral Products: FAQs
- Scaling of Teeth in Canines



Remember your toothbrush is green, mine is blue.



Bob would learn the hard way that dogs are color-blind.

FAQs on Various Pet Oral Hygiene Products Available in the Market

Q: Are chew toys or rawhide beneficial?

A: A chew toy or rawhide stimulates the flow of saliva, and thus pushes out material from teeth.

Q: Are Dental Sticks/Chewsticks helpful in maintaining oral health of pets?

A: Oral Sticks and Chewsticks help in removing tartar only if the pet chews on them slowly and does not gulp large chunks. Large chunks may choke the pet and may cause necrosis (cell death) as they compress the surrounding tissues. Without attention, necrosis can be fatal.

Q: How effective are Oral Gels for maintaining dental health of pets?

A: Oral gels have been accepted by the Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC), USA for removal of plaque. Oral gels dissolve in saliva and thus reach periodontal pockets that even brushing cannot reach. Oral gels are proven to be effective in reducing plaque.

Q: What is the difference between Pet Dentagel and other pet oral care products available in the market?

A: The comparison has been displayed in the following table:



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PARAMETER	PET DENTAGEL	OTHER PRODUCTS
Mode of Action	Removes plaque which is the first stage of oral disease	Most of the products, apart from tooth brush, such as chew sticks and chew toys focus on tartar, which work only if chewed properly and not in big chunks
Ease of administration	Pet Dentagel comes in an easy to use bottle with a long nozzle that can be inserted in the dog's mouth. If the pet does not let put the nozzle in mouth, some gel may be squeezed on the finger and the gel may be rubbed inside the pet's mouth	Chew sticks and chew toys are easy to feed, however, many pets might eat them in big chunks, while they should actually be consumed by slowly chewing on them. Tooth Brushing is difficult as the pet may not allow pet owner to do so
Reach	Pet Dentagel reaches all periodontal pockets as it dissolves in the saliva and spreads everywhere as the pet rolls his tongue upon application	Chew sticks and chew toys easily reach the outer surfaces of teeth, however, they do not reach plaque under the gum line, where Inflammation occurs. Brushing cleanses the outer surfaces very well. But the pockets in the rear side of teeth are difficult to reach as the pet does not allow so

Veterinary Care: Dental Prophylaxis Or Dental Cleaning

A dental prophylaxis or dental cleaning is performed not only to clean teeth and to evaluate the oral cavity of any existing problems. However, in order to this, the pet needs to be put under anesthesia. Let us go through the process of dental cleaning of a pet under anesthesia:

1. Pre-Anesthesia Evaluation :

a. History: Any on going medication of pet, prior experience with anesthesia, known medical condition should be evaluated.

b. Physical Examination: A thorough physical examination

pil Squeeze only

PET DENTAGEL

- Removes Plaque
- Fight Gum Diseases
- Controls Bad Breath
- For Dogs & Cats

Self Spreading & Self Cleansing Dental Gel





should be done for any signs of weakness, arrhythmia (incorrect rate of heart beat) or abnormal lung sounds etc.

c. Age: Old dogs may be at risk of changes in cardiovascular or respiratory functions while very young pets may be at risk of hypoglycemia, hypothermia or decreased drug metabolism.

d. Blood Sugar, Kidney and Liver Test: It must be ensured that the pet can process and eliminate the anesthetic is given. To gauge kidney health, creatinine and urea should be tested while for liver health, Alanine Aminotransferase (ALT), Alkaline Phosphate Level (AP), bilirubin and cholesterol may be tested. The pet should also be tested for diabetes.

e. Pre-administration: If the pet is found fit for anesthesia, the veterinarian may recommend dental cleaning under anesthesia to the pet owner. The pet should not be fed anything for at least 8 hours prior to anesthesia to avoid vomiting under and after dental prophylaxis.

2. Upon Administering Anesthesia:

a. Diabetic Patient: A diabetic patient's blood glucose levels must be tested for hyper/hypo-glycemia at sufficient intervals when the pet is under anesthesia.

b. Antibiotic Injection: Anti-biotic injection is given to prevent the patient from contracting any infection from the bacteria removed while scaling.

c. Vital statistics should be measured continuously throughout the anesthesia period, especially in case of heart patients having renal or liver disease.

d. A tube is generally placed inside the patient's airway to help the patient breathe normally even under anesthesia and also to prevent the lungs from the bacteria being removed from the teeth.

e. IV Fluid therapy should be done to maintain hydration and blood pressure during the dental procedure.

3. Oral Examination Under General Anesthesia: Individual teeth should be checked for mobility, fractures, increased mobility, malocclusion and periodontal disease. Probing

upto 3 mm is normal in dogs while upto 1 mm is normal in cats. All abnormalities should be recorded and accordingly treatment plan should be developed for individual teeth.

4. Supragingival Calculus Removal: It is cleaning the area above the gum line, generally using mechanical scalers. Some important tips for using scalers of teeth are as follows:

a. Only the side of the tip of scaler should be used as it is the least damaging area of the instrument.

b. Each tooth should be scaled upto 5 seconds at a time. If a tooth needs more time, then come back to it in 1-2 minutes.

c. Maintain light touch with minimal pressure. Too much pressure can stall the tip decreasing the efficiency of the scaler and also may hurt the delicate gingival tissues

d. Water spray is essential to dissipate heat and flushing debris. Water spray should be adjusted until a fine halo of water is produced.

e. Replace tip regularly to avoid over heating of the headpiece despite adequate water spray which can harm the patient's teeth.

5. Subgingival Cleaning: It is cleaning the area under the gum line. This is the most important step as subgingival plaque and calculus is what causes periodontal disease. Subgingival cleaning helps re-attachment of periodontal structures of the root.

a. Firstly, detect periodontal pockets by placing a periodontal probe under gingival margin.

b. Probes have markings in millimeters (Fig. 1). Place the probe parallel to the long axis of the tooth (Fig.2)

c. Insert under the gingival margin until any resistance is felt. Resistance indicates the bottom of the periodontal pocket. At this point, take the measurement of the probe. Where, the gum overlaps the probe, it gives the measurement of periodontal pocket (Fig.3). Measurement of the longest pocket on a tooth should be taken and noted.

Fig. 1

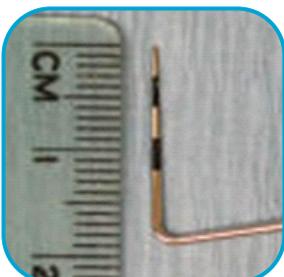
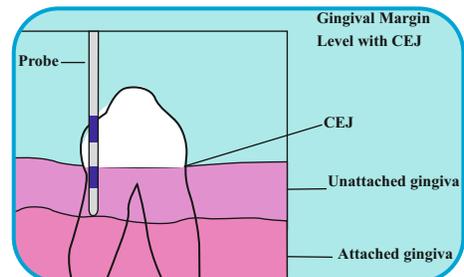


Fig. 2



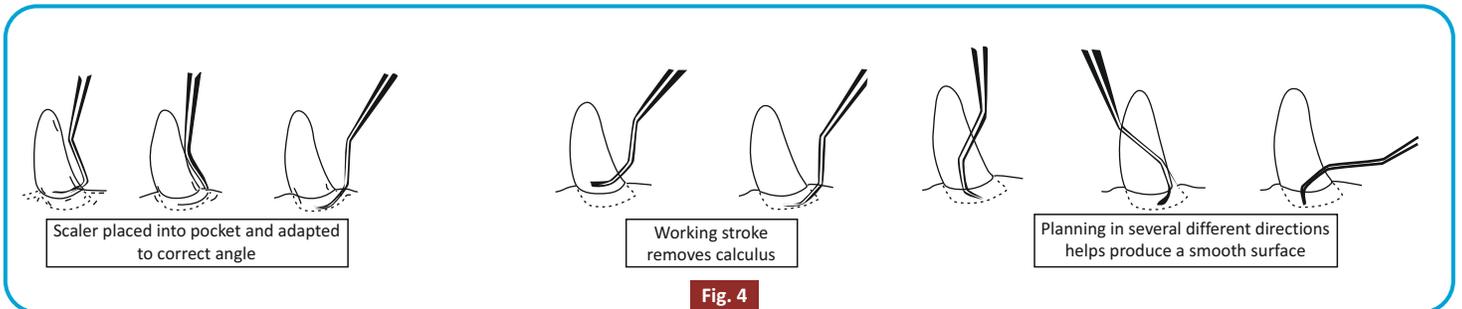
Fig. 3



- d. Pull out the probe and insert again on a different surface or tooth. Do not drag.
- e. The stage of periodontal disease is determined by measuring the depth of periodontal pocket. For more information on this, please refer to Volume 3 of PIL Pet News.
- f. Bleeding on probing is not normal and should alert you to look further
- g. In dogs, Periodontal pockets upto 3-5mm are treated with closed root planning. Closed Root Planing is done using curettes of different sizes for different teeth. The technique of using the curette is explained in fig. 4.

Upon cleaning the pockets, antibiotic based gel material or chlorhexidine/ triclosan based gel should be injected in the periodontal pockets to clean them and promote re-attachment of gums to the tooth. PIL's Pet Dentagel having Triclosan as anti-microbial, Green Tee Extract as anti-bacterial can also be used. Clove Oil is an anti-inflammatory that soothes affected gums. Thus, Pet Dentagel will disinfect the pocket and promote re-attachment of gums with tooth.

- i. In case the periodontal pocket is greater than 5-6 mm, open root planning needs to be conducted.



- 6. **Polishing:** Cleaning teeth causes roughening of tooth surface enabling plaque and tartar to stick to teeth. But polishing smooths the surface and prevents plaque and tartar build up. .
- 7. **Sucal Lavage:** Debris is accumulated under the gums upon scaling and polishing and may cause inflammation. This debris should be rinsed using anti-bacterial solution.
- 8. **Flouride Treatment:** Flouride application strengthens and

desensitizes teeth and discourages development of future plaque.

- 9. **Homecare & Dental Aftercare:** Homecare instructions should be given to the pet owner. Pet Dentagel should be used at least once a day on the pet. Brushing should be done at least once a week. Follow-up scaling appointment should be fixed.

? DID YOU KNOW

At 4-8 weeks of age, a puppy's mouth will get 28 baby teeth

At 4-7 months, baby teeth will fall out and replaced by about 42 permanent teeth

Dogs have fewer taste buds than humans. We have around 900 while dogs have about 1700 only

- Source:**
1. Pets 101: Health, animalplanet.com
 2. Pet Dental Products FAQ, 1800petmeds.com
 3. Dental Health and Dogs, healthymouth.com
 4. AAHA Anesthesia Guidelines for Dogs and Cats
 5. The complete Dental Prophylaxis, New Zealand Veterinary Nursing Association
 6. www.pvhc.com, www.dentalaireproducts.com

WOMNIL Pet Tab./Susp.

Praziquantel 50mg + Pyrantel Pamoate 144mg + Fenbendazole 500mg **Tablet**
Pyrantel Embonate 14.4mg + Febantel 15mg per ml **Susp.**

*Multi-spectrum Dewormer
for Dogs & Puppies*



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