



COMPANION ANIMAL

DENTISTRY



Essentials of periodontal disease in dogs and cats

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Periodontal disease is the most common oral disease in dogs and cats. The periodontium is inflamed due to dental plaque and the host's response to the bacterial insult.

Periodontal disease is a collective term for a number of plaque-induced inflammatory lesions that affect the periodontium. The periodontium is the gingiva, periodontal ligament, alveolar bone and cementum.

The earliest sign of the disease is gingivitis, a reversible inflammation of the gingiva and is not associated with destruction of supporting tissue. Gingivitis may develop into a periodontitis. In periodontitis there is an irreversible destruction of supporting tissue. Periodontal disease cause discomfort for the patient and there is evidence that a focus of infection in the oral cavity may cause disease of distant organs. Severe periodontal disease can also lead to oral nasal fistula formation and in small breed dogs to pathological mandibular fractures.

Diagnosis of periodontal disease requires a thorough periodontal examination with a periodontal probe and full-mouth dental radiography.

This presentation will be an update of the management of periodontal disease and several different types of preventive and treatment procedures.