CHB VETS LTD

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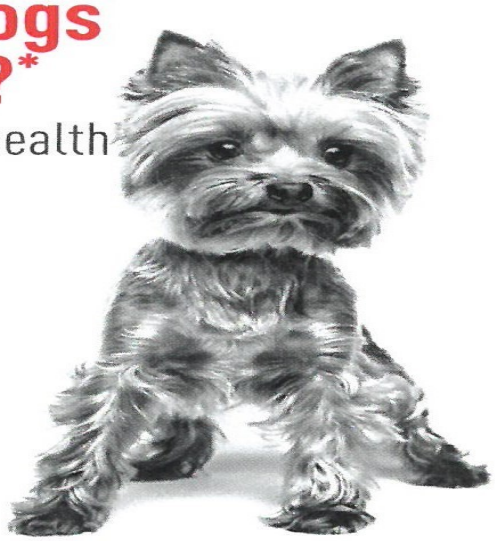
Veterinary newsletter September 2022

Did you know dental disease affects

85% of cats and dogs over 1 year of age?*

It's one of the most common health problems for pets.



Signs of dental disease

- Bad breath
- Red, inflamed or receding gums
- Loose, broken or missing teeth
- Reluctance to chew or eat
- Discharge from the gumline

How does dental disease develop?

The oral cavity is rich in bacteria, with more than 300 species thriving on the surfaces of the teeth. When saliva and food particles coat the teeth, bacteria inhabit these surfaces forming the biofilm, **plaque**. Plaque readily sticks to the teeth, is not visible to the naked eye and can develop within as little as 6 hours! This is why we brush our teeth twice daily.

If plaque is not removed, minerals in the saliva cause it to calcify forming hardened **tartar**. Plaque and tartar cause inflammation of the gums called **gingivitis**. This is the early form of dental disease that is reversible with brushing or a professional dental clean by your veterinarian.

Periodontal disease occurs when gingivitis progresses and plaque spreads under the gum line. This is a low oxygen environment promoting the growth of harmful bacteria called anaerobes. The bacterial infection then causes damage to the root of the tooth and the supporting tissues.

Impact of dental disease

If left untreated, dental disease can have detrimental effects on your pet's health. Some common consequences include:

- Development of a fistula (a hole from the oral cavity into the nasal passages)
- Jaw fractures or infection (osteomyelitis)
- Bacteraemia (bacteria in the bloodstream)
- Oral Pain
- Loss of teeth
- Tooth root abscess

Studies in dogs have shown that dental disease is associated with microscopic disease in the heart, liver and kidneys.

*Royal Canin® internal study 2018.

**Enlund, K. B., Brunius, C., Hanson, J. et al. Dental home care in dogs - BMC Vet Res 16, 90 (2020)

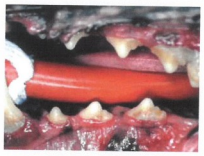
PROGRESSION OF DENTAL DISEASE

ROYAL CANIN®

CANINE

HEALTHY MOUTH

Healthy teeth and gums.



GINGIVITIS

Dental plaque is a natural removable biofilm that forms on the surface of teeth. When plaque comes into contact with the gingiva, an inflammatory reaction occurs.

CALCULUS / TARTAR

Calculus (tartar) is formed by gradual mineralisation of plaque caused by mineral salts (particularly calcium) found in saliva. Calculus must be removed by a Veterinarian.

PERIODONTITIS

Severe, advanced periodontal disease; migration of bacteria under the gingiva causing destruction of deeper-lying tissues resulting in deep infection, pain and tooth loss.

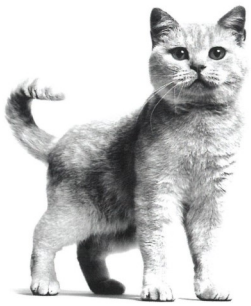
FELINE

HEALTHY MOUTH

GINGIVITIS

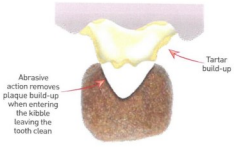
CALCULUS / TARTAR

PERIODONTITIS

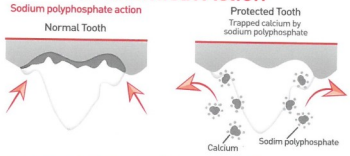


LOOK AFTER YOUR PETS TEETH WITH ROYAL CANIN DENTAL DIETS. PRECISELY FORMULATED WITH SPECIFIC NUTRIENTS TO HELP PREVENT DENTAL DISEASE IN 3 WAYS:

1. Mechanical Action



2. Chemical Action



3. Precise Nutrients

Active nutrients with enhanced properties to assist in the reduction of dental plaque and tartar.

INCREDIBLE IN EVERY DETAIL

DENTAL DISEASE LEADS TO:

Bad Breath • Sore Gums • Loosening of Teeth • Infections in the Mouth and Body

ROYAL CANIN® DENTAL

PROVIDES A DUAL ACTION** TO COMBAT DENTAL DISEASE.

BRUSHING EFFECT

The dental kibble has been designed to withstand deeper tooth penetration before breaking, thereby creating a scrubbing action as the pet crunches the kibble.

TARTAR CONTROL

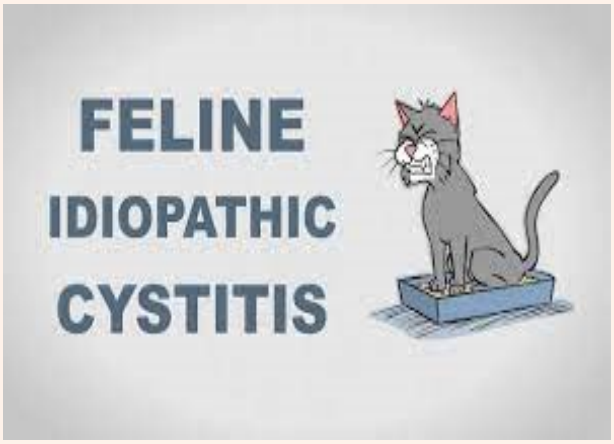
The kibble coating binds to calcium in the saliva, helping to reduce the formation of tartar.

PLAQUE-REDUCING NUTRIENTS

The inclusion of specific nutrients help to reduce the formation of plaque.

* Royal Canin® internal study 2018.
** Mechanical action and sodium polyphosphates.

Which *cats are at risk from bladder problems?*



Cats of any age can be affected by bladder problems. However there are certain risks factors that are associated with Feline Idiopathic Cystitis, the most common form of bladder problems in cats. They are:

- Young to middle aged
- Being overweight
- Being a nervous cat
- Living with other cats in one household

What *is Feline Idiopathic Cystitis?*

Feline Idiopathic Cystitis is a chronic condition, which is poorly understood, even by the experts. What we do know is that factors involved are:

- Problems with the bladder lining
- Sensitivity in the bladder wall, which is made worse by highly concentrated urine
- Stress, which can trigger an episode of the condition

How *do I know if my cat has Feline Idiopathic Cystitis?*

Your cat cannot tell you in words if they have trouble when they urinate. There are some signs they can show that you can look out for:

- Blood—you may see blood in your cat's urine
- Increased frequency of urination—they may start visiting their litter tray more often
- Discomfort—your cat may appear to be having trouble when urinating, may cry out in pain
- Inappropriate toileting—they may begin urinating small amounts in unusual places such as the shower, bath or on the floor
- Behaviour changes—their normal behaviour may be altered
- Overgrooming—they may groom themselves excessively, causing hairloss around their back end or on their belly.

If your cat is showing any of these signs then we recommend contacting us for a check up.

Magnesium and grass staggers (grass tetany)

Mg plays an important role in nerve and muscle function and functioning of the immune system. Although cows have significant stores of Mg in the bones, little of these stores are available to maintain levels in the blood. Therefore, the cow is dependent on the Mg supplied in the diet and from supplements to maintain blood levels. Blood and urine tests can confirm Mg deficiency.

The initial symptoms of Mg deficiency are nervousness, ears pricked, nostrils flaring, eyes alert and head held high. Movement is stiff, like a cow is walking on stilts, and she will stagger when forced to move quickly. Cows suffer loss of appetite and reduced milk production. Death results from a “tetany”, where the muscles contract uncontrollably, including the heart.

Preventing Magnesium Deficiency

There are a number of different sources of magnesium, and methods of adding these into a cow’s diet. Common methods include drenching, pasture dusting, hay slurries, through water, and as magnesium bolus. Each method has its own limitations and advantages, so it is up to each farm how they choose to supplement their magnesium.

Factors that increase Mg requirements of cows during the winter/spring period are:

- Diets naturally low in Mg and/or high in potassium (K) e.g. pastures (low Mg or high K), maize silage or fodder beet (low Mg), paddocks with high potash or effluent (high K).
- Cold wet weather in spring, depressing grass growth and cow intakes.

High cow demand for Mg over calving and early lactation, e.g. due to high milk production.

Milk fever or Hypocalcaemia (not just dairy breeds)

Once she has calved, a cow’s calcium requirements increase by around 400 percent to support colostrum production. All cows should receive dietary calcium during the colostrum period. This is commonly administered through dusting of pastures, or by incorporating it into supplements being fed. Cows require at least 100g of lime flour per cow per day, with this level increasing to 300g for cows with an increased risk of milk fever.

Remember, when dusting minerals in the paddock, the levels need to be either double or triple to allow for losses.

After the colostrum period there is no known benefit of supplementing cows with calcium unless milk fever is occurring in the herd, or cows are consuming large amounts of low calcium feed, such as maize or cereal grains.

Magnesium plays a vital role in the prevention of milk fever. It is essential for the efficient absorption and resorption of calcium. Supplementation with magnesium has the largest effect on decreasing the incidence of milk fever.

Supplementing with magnesium for two to three weeks pre-calving will reduce the risk of milk fever. However it does not build up a store of magnesium, and continued supplementation will be required during early lactation.