

Stage 4 Periodontal Disease

During our dental examination today, your patient was determined to have Stage 4 Periodontal Disease. Full determination of the level of disease will be done under general anesthesia during the procedure.

In Stage 4 Periodontal disease, the bacteria present in the plaque and tartar has contributed to significant infection and inflammation of the tissues around the tooth, including the gums and even bone. This infection has progressed to the extent that there is extensive loss of these supportive tissues, and a number of teeth are compromised. This tissue loss may be evident as periodontal pockets (a space between the tooth and gum that can retain further plaque bacteria), or gum and bone recession that can cause root exposure.

With the extent of tissue destruction already present, we recommend that you schedule the periodontal therapy and oral surgery immediately. Pre-operative management involving blood work and medications may be indicated. In Stage 4 Periodontal disease, frequently the best option is to extract the severely effected teeth to remove that source of chronic infection. Of the remaining teeth, a complete evaluation will be done to determine if their attachment is healthy enough to salvage the teeth. Medications such as antibiotics, even ones used in the pockets, are often necessary to help in the fight against the infection. The presence of a chronic oral infection can potentially impact your pet's overall health.

Good home care is essential to stop further destruction. After periodontal therapy, using an oral solution or gel will be easier on your pet than extensively brushing. After 3 to 5 days, gradually reintroduce regular (daily) tooth brushing with a veterinary tooth paste into your pet's routine. If an antibiotic has been used in the periodontal pockets, the gels may be used for 14 days, and brushing can start after our re-examination appointment at that time.

With this level of disease, it will be important to return on a regular basis (every 4-6 months) for dental examinations. If persistent disease is found, dental therapy may be scheduled immediately. If home care efforts have been successful, the therapy may be delayed a bit longer.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Visit us online at www.WhiteBearAnimalHospital.com.

WHITE BEAR ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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