

All Seasons Veterinary Care Monthly Newsletter

February



Pet Dental Health Month is Here!!

February is **Pet Dental Health Month**, and it's the perfect time to talk about something that often gets overlooked: your pet's teeth! **Dental disease is one of the most common conditions** we see in pets, and it can start quietly. Plaque and tartar buildup can lead to **painful gum disease, tooth loss, infection, and that awful, stinky bad breath!** Even more importantly, bacteria from the mouth can enter the bloodstream and affect major organs like the heart, liver, and kidneys.

Many pets **don't show obvious signs** of dental pain until disease is advanced. **Bad breath, drooling, pawing at the mouth, or changes in eating habits** can all be signs that it's time for a dental evaluation.



**Before
Vs.
After**



Why Routine Dental Cleanings Are So Important:

Routine professional dental cleanings allow us to **remove plaque and tartar below the gum line** in areas that brushing and dental treats can't reach. Addressing dental disease early helps **prevent painful and more costly extractions, keeps your pet more comfortable, and supports their overall health long-term.**

What's Included in an ASVC Dental?

Our dental cleanings are performed under general anesthesia to allow for a thorough, **pain-free** evaluation and treatment of your pet's oral health. Each procedure includes a **full oral examination** performed by Dr. Chrouser along with **professional scaling and polishing** to remove plaque and tartar both above and below the gum line. We also utilize **digital dental X-rays** which are essential for identifying hidden issues such as tooth root disease, fractures, or infections that aren't visible during a surface exam.

Catching these problems early helps prevent more serious complications and discomfort down the road.

If extractions are necessary, they are performed **surgically and with careful pain management**. Any medications your pet needs for a smooth recovery, such as pain relievers or anti-inflammatories, are included to **ensure comfort at home**. Pets who require extractions also receive a **complimentary two-week recheck** so we can confirm proper healing. If no extractions are needed or once healing is complete, you'll go home with a **free at-home dental care kit**, designed to help you maintain your pet's oral health between professional cleanings and keep those smiles healthy long-term. This kit is designed to make **daily oral care easy and effective** and includes:

- A pet-safe toothbrush and enzymatic toothpaste to reduce plaque and bacteria
- Oral Care kibble designed to help your pet break down tartar accumulation
- Dental chews that help mechanically reduce tartar buildup (for dogs)
- A list of VOHC approved products proved to help in preventing dental disease
- Easy-to-follow instructions and tips for building a dental care routine



February Dental Special!

Schedule your pet's dental procedure in February and **receive \$25 off their dental cleaning!**

If you've been putting off a dental, this is a great opportunity to take care of it before more serious (and costly) issues develop. Give us a call to schedule your pet for a dental evaluation or cleaning!

What Month Is It?

National Cat Health Month

Cats are incredibly good at hiding pain and illness, which is why routine veterinary care is so important. Many common feline conditions such as kidney disease, dental disease, thyroid disorders, and arthritis can progress quietly before noticeable symptoms appear. Regular wellness exams allow us to detect subtle changes early, when conditions are often easier to manage and treatment options are less invasive.

At ASVC, our cat wellness visits include a thorough physical exam, discussion of behavior and lifestyle, and personalized recommendations for vaccines, parasite prevention, nutrition, and diagnostics.

National Cat Health Month is a great reminder to schedule an annual exam or check in if your cat hasn't been seen recently. Even if they seem perfectly healthy, preventative care helps ensure they stay that way!

Spay & Neuter Awareness Month

Spay and Neuter Awareness Month highlights the importance of these routine procedures for both individual pets and the larger community. Spaying and neutering help reduce pet overpopulation while also offering significant health and behavioral benefits.

For pets, these procedures can reduce the risk of certain cancers (mammary and uterine cancer in females and testicular cancer in males), prevent uterine infections, and decrease hormone-driven behaviors such as roaming or marking.

At ASVC, we take the time to discuss the best timing for your pet, explain the procedure, and ensure a safe, comfortable recovery. If you're considering spaying or neutering your pet or have questions about what to expect our team is happy to walk you through the process and help you make an informed decision that's right for your pet.

American Heart Month (For Pets, too!)

Heart health isn't just for people, pets can be affected by heart disease as well. Certain breeds are predisposed to cardiac conditions, and age, weight, and overall health all play a role in heart function. Maintaining a healthy weight, encouraging regular activity, and keeping up with preventative care all support heart health.

Signs of heart disease in pets can be subtle at first, which makes routine exams and early detection especially important. During wellness exams, we listen for heart murmurs, assess overall cardiovascular health, and recommend further diagnostics when needed. Early detection allows us to monitor changes, slow disease progression, and improve quality of life.

Heart health starts with prevention, as does most things in veterinary medicine, and routine exams and diagnostics play a key role in keeping your pet's heart strong.