

Grade one Periodontal disease



Do you see the build up of tartar and the slightly swollen and reddened gums – this is the first sign of pain!



Note that there is NO BONE LOSS!!

Grade one is the very beginning of dental disease. There will often be very little amounts of tartar seen on the teeth and the gum line can be *swollen* and **red** indicating the start of infection. There shouldn't be any gum recession or any periodontal pockets if probed. On x-rays, teeth will still look healthy. There will be no bone loss or tooth decay!



What you can do to prevent dental disease from progressing to stage 2 is brushing!! Daily brushing will not only prevent infection under the gumline from progressing, but it will get your pet used to a lifestyle of good oral health. Only use a veterinary toothpaste that is safe for them to swallow. Greenie dental treats are another great way of preventing tartar from building up on your pet's teeth. The hardness of the treat is designed for the tooth to penetrate and scrape against it causing tartar to break off. Keep in mind, Greenie treats are *great for helping* but these will **NOT** remove infection or tartar build up underneath the gumline where the real problem lies. The only way to do that is by yearly dental cleanings under anesthesia. The teeth are scaled, polished, front, back, and under the gumline! The polish we use is designed to prevent tartar and infection from building up for a longer period. For best oral health dental cleanings should be done yearly.

Severe dental disease is easy to avoid if you practice good oral hygiene early!!

