

DENTAL PAIN IN PETS

Just as in humans, gum disease can cause our pets significant pain and lead to more serious illnesses, such as heart and kidney disease.



- Most pets with painful dental conditions do not show clinical signs that are obvious to the owner, but this does not mean that they are not feeling pain.
- **Many dental problems develop gradually over time**, so there often is not a distinct feeling by the pet owner that something is wrong with the pet.
- **Pet owners often assume that their dog or cat is just getting older and slowing down when they are instead affected by inflammation and pain due to a dental condition.** It is often not until after a condition has been resolved and the pet suddenly starts acting more happy and energetic, that owners realize that their pet was not feeling well.
- **Pets have no concept that pain is something abnormal and can be made to go away.** For this reason their innate survival instinct causes them to accept pain as “part of life” and they move on. In addition, dogs and cats do not know that if they started acting abnormal, then we as owners would likely start investigating.
- **In the wild, animals tend to hide signs of illness or pain to ensure survival so they are not expelled from the pack or killed by predators** - dogs and cats possess this instinct and mask signs of pain as long as possible.

