

Dental Care of the Japanese Spitz

DENTAL HEALTH ISSUES.

Japanese Spitz can suffer from dental issues however with regular dental care from the owner these issues can be minimized.

Tarter build up on Teeth:

- Many Japanese Spitz have a problem with Plaque and Tartar build up on their teeth.
- Without oral care, the result can be oral abscesses, infection, loose teeth.
- Tartar can build up under the gum line, eventually undermining the tooth causing it to become unstable.
- This will create small pockets in the gum tissue that will be susceptible to bacterial infection.

In turn this could result in irreversible periodontal disease, which is a painful condition and may result in abscesses infections & loose teeth

Here we can see a considerable buildup of tartar

SO – What can we do?

We can help reduce the amount of tartar through diet, play and owner dental cleaning



Diet:

- Diet plays an important part in the control of tartar.
- Raw diets, for example - Raw marrow bone is a dental abrasive, when the dog chews and gnaws at the bone it acts on the teeth and helps to remove debris stuck on the teeth.
- Dogs that eat raw meaty foods seldom develop tartar and rarely have dental problems. Raw meat also contains enzymes that are helpful in breaking down plaque & tartar.
- Dry Food is better to feed than wet food.

Play - with Chew Toys:

- Choose a synthetic bone or toy that is specially designed to strengthen your dog's gums and teeth.
- Check you are providing a safe object for your dog to chew on; really hard objects can cause broken teeth.

Owner Dental Care:

Daily Dental Care can really improve the health of your dog's teeth and gums

- Train from a young age that teeth brushing is a daily occurrence. With patience teach slowly.
- Start with moisten cotton wool; gently rub the top teeth, then the lower teeth. Keep these sessions short and praise often.
- Next step, purchase a natural dental product designed for dogs and apply a little to the cotton wool and gently rub this across the teeth.
- This will take a little getting used to, but you can then progress to a soft toothbrush or finger brush, a small toothbrush for the Japanese Spitz will be suitable
- Most dogs will object a little at first, but become accustomed to the treatment. The results are rewarding, in the form of cleaner teeth and sweeter breath.
- Regular cleaning will enable you to maintain oral health & reduce the risk of health conditions caused by tartar build up on teeth.
- DO not use regular human toothpaste, most contain fluoride, which is poisonous to dogs.
- Most pet stores sell toothpaste formulated for dogs.

Many pet stores also sell dental cleaning kits for dogs that can include pet toothpaste, pet toothbrush, finger toothbrush, etc.

However even with the daily attention provided by owners sometimes professional intervention is required . . .



Professional Dental Intervention:

Spitz with extreme tartar build up, and or badly inflamed gums will need the help of your veterinary

Signs to look for

- Bad Breath
- Change in eating habits
- Pawing at the face & mouth
- Drooling
- Red & painful gums
- Brown tartar builds up along the gum line.

If it becomes necessary then dental cleaning and tooth extraction must be done under anaesthesia, which it is why it is so important to maintain the teeth.

All anaesthetic procedures come with a risk and it is far better to avoid the need for dental scaling and tooth extractions if at all possible.

If extractions do become necessary, face facts the dog will be more comfortable and healthy without bad teeth. The gums soon harden and your dog will still be able to enjoy a bone.

Non Professional Dental Scaling:

This is **not** recommended as the majority of problems are caused from disease below the gum line.

All dental procedures **must** be carried out by a Veterinary Surgeon.

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With regular and effective home dental care, it is possible that you may never need veterinary treatment for your Japanese Spitz.

Well Done !!

Courtesy of: Mrs Stephanie Bliss (Charney Pet Care Centre)