

MCLEOD



VETERINARY  
HOSPITAL



February 2013

### Hospital Hours

Mon – Thurs 8 am - 6:30 pm  
Friday 8 am - 6:00 pm  
Saturday 8:30 am - 1:00 pm  
Sunday Closed



McLeod Veterinary Hospital is now on Facebook! Search us out and join us in this exciting new form of communication!

## Heartworm Medication Update

Last year there was no Interceptor or Sentinel available during the heartworm season. Currently Novartis has started production on Sentinel, but NOT yet on Interceptor. We will continue to provide the tasty Heartgard chews, as we did last year. We had great feedback from many clients; including our own pooches!

### Reminders

Reminders and notices can now be emailed to you! Please contact us with your email address. Please add our email address to your mailing list. This will prevent your reminders from being sent to a junk mail folder.

McLeod Veterinary Hospital  
880 McLeod Avenue  
Winnipeg MB R2G 2T7  
Ph: (204)661-3334  
Email: mcleodvh@mymts.net  
Web: www.mcleodvet.com

## Happy Dental Month!

February is veterinary dental awareness month. We take this time to raise awareness of the importance of oral health and how it affects an animal's wellbeing. Our pets are susceptible to tartar and periodontal disease, fractured teeth, abscesses, and even mouth cancers. During your pet's routine examinations their oral cavity is also evaluated, inspecting for any abnormalities.

Check out the following websites:

[www.vohc.org](http://www.vohc.org)

This website contains a list of products that have been proven to reduce plaque and tartar formation.

[www.toothvet.ca](http://www.toothvet.ca)

This website is full of useful tips for brushing teeth, information on periodontal disease and much more; all from a veterinary dentist specialist.

### It's even important to evaluate puppies' mouths!

As puppies adult teeth erupt the baby teeth's roots should begin to naturally resorb by the body and then the baby teeth should fall out. Quite often the baby teeth roots will not resorb, this condition is called retained deciduous teeth. The adult tooth will still come in often misplaced as a result. These two teeth then sit very close together and is an ideal area for plaque and tartar accumulation and more rapid development of periodontal disease.

Retained deciduous teeth can be recognized often by 6 months of age. This coincides with the suggested age for spaying and neutering. These retained baby teeth should be extracted at this time.



Picture courtesy: [www.vetmedicine.about.com](http://www.vetmedicine.about.com)

## Want to WIN some great prizes?

Visit our website at [www.mcleodvet.com](http://www.mcleodvet.com)

to find a link for your chance to

**WIN** a year's supply of Hills T/D for your pet. Along with other great offers!

**AND**

Visit us on Facebook

for your chance to

**WIN** a dental prize pack!





### Meet Brinkley

He is a seven month old Shih Tzu lovingly owned by the Brown Family.

### McLeod Veterinary Hospital Staff Members

#### Veterinarians

Dr. Robert Newfield  
Dr. Alison Bowles  
Dr. Jason Kellsey  
Dr. Angela Coleman

#### Animal Health Technologists

Barbe Parke  
Cindy Sontag  
Amy Weir  
Joëlle Tétreault  
Kaylee Trach

#### Receptionists

Martina Korne  
Brittni Stowe  
Ashley Celhar  
Carissa Shaw  
Rees Buck  
Kelly Zelinsky

#### Veterinary Assistants

Romi Scott  
Orit Agbayev

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## The Process of Periodontal Disease

Our pets get plaque just like we do...only we brush and floss daily to remove this sticky film of bacteria. If left untreated; plaque becomes mineralized and forms tartar. Tartar is thick and hard and has to be scaled, using dental instruments. The gums react to this bacteria film, causing inflammation and infection; this is gingivitis. The disease process continues and the bone in the jaw that surrounds the teeth will then begin to recede. At this point the damage is irreversible and the affected teeth will require extraction as they become mobile. The infection can become severe and enter the blood stream. Vital organs such as kidneys, liver and heart can become affected with the chronic infection. This disease process will be painful for the pet and the infection can cause lethargy and illness.

## Dental Cleanings

Dental cleanings involve anesthesia. Your pet would have an intravenous catheter placed and have fluids delivered during anesthesia. Monitoring equipment measures heart rate, oxygen concentration and blood pressure. The teeth and oral cavity are carefully evaluated, by the Veterinarian and Registered Animal Health Technologist. The surfaces of each tooth are scaled clean and polished. Dental radiographs may be taken to evaluate the roots of certain teeth. Depending on the level of infection and periodontal disease in the mouth, antibiotics and pain relief may be prescribed.



Before



After

## Brushing Teeth

The best defense against plaque buildup is brushing. Pets don't tolerate flossing, therefore, it's impossible to remove plaque and tartar that accumulates below the gum line. Brushing the plaque off the crown (part of the tooth that above the gum line) can reduce gingivitis and can often slow the periodontal disease process.

Not all pets will tolerate brushing, but the following steps may help to make it more enjoyable for them.

1. Start by choosing a pet appropriate, tasty toothpaste. Place a small amount on your finger and allow your pet to lick it off. Your pet needs to enjoy the flavor of the toothpaste to tolerate the brushing.
2. When your pet is comfortable and calm, gently pet and massage their muzzle area. Your pet needs to trust you during this step. Should your pet become anxious or upset, it's important to give them a break to reduce their anxiety. Only once they are comfortable with this can you proceed to the next step.
3. Rub the toothpaste on your pet's gums and teeth. This will initially feel unusual for your pet. Continue with this step numerous times to ensure they are accepting, before attempting a toothbrush.
4. Only once your pet is comfortable with all the above steps is it okay to proceed with brushing the teeth. A toothbrush must be an appropriate size for your pet and have soft bristles. Most pets will only tolerate short periods of time. Always keep experience positive with lots of praise and finish with a reward that your pet can enjoy, like a walk, a treat or playing with their favorite toy.

Visit our website; [www.mcleodvet.com](http://www.mcleodvet.com) for a video demonstration.