

January



Veterinary Medical and Surgical Hospital Of Topeka Monthly Newsletter

From the Desk of Dr. Amber M. Smith

January Monthly Special!!

We have exciting news for our clients! We are including the month of January and February in our National Dental Healthy Month special! This means you have much more time to schedule your pets much needed dental cleaning. During these two months, dentals and dental care products are 10% off. Spots fill up fast, so don't delay! Call or stop by to schedule your pet's dental cleaning today!

Pumpkin Apple Mint Dog Treats

Ingredients:

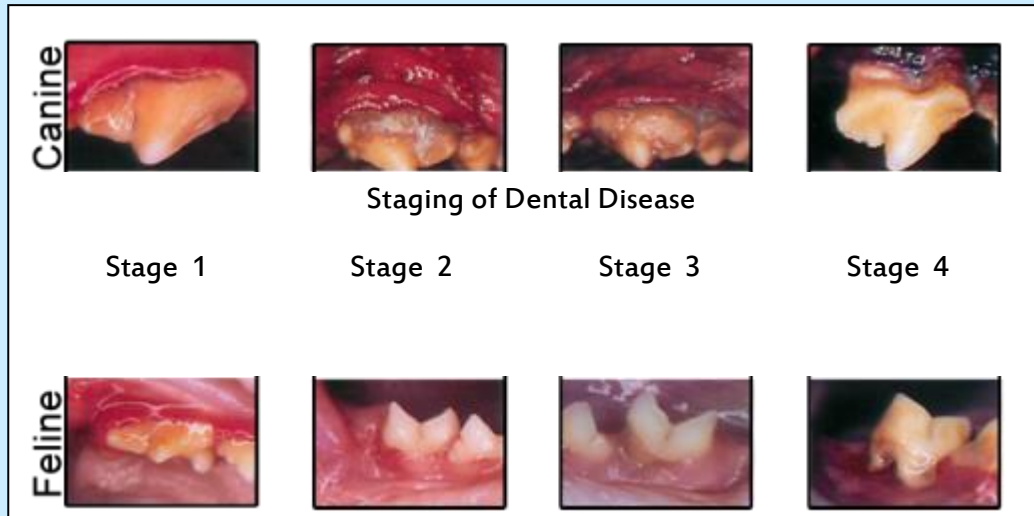
1 cup pumpkin puree
2 large eggs
3 cups whole wheat flour, or more, as needed
1 apple, grated
1/2 cup mint leaves, chopped
1/4 cup fresh parsley leaves, chopped

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone baking mat; set aside.
2. In the bowl, beat pumpkin puree and eggs on until well combined. Gradually add 2 1/2 cups flour, beating just until incorporated. Add an additional 1/4 cup flour at a time just until the dough is no longer sticky. Add apple,

- mint and parsley, beating just until incorporated.
3. Working on a lightly floured surface, knead the dough 3-4 times until it comes together. Using a rolling pin, roll the dough to 1/4-inch thickness. Using cookie cutters, cut out desired shapes and place onto the prepared baking sheet.
4. Place into oven and bake until the edges are golden brown, about 20-25 minutes.
5. Let cool completely.

Why Regular Dentals are Important to Your Pet's Health



At your pet's yearly check-up, most veterinarians try to check your pet's teeth and look for signs of dental disease that may be causing problems for your pet. Most pets have some form of dental disease by 3 years old. Dental disease can lead to more problems beyond smelly breath and tartar accumulation. Severe dental disease is associated with health problems including liver, kidney, and heart muscle changes.

Dental disease starts with the buildup of plaque that hardens into tartar. Plaque can be removed at home by brushing your pet's teeth, but tartar can only be removed by using an ultrasonic scaler during a dental cleaning procedure. The plaque and tartar that build up above the gum line is like an iceberg- it's just the tip of the problem. Plaque and tartar also builds up below the gum line and that can set your pet up for a painful infection of the jawbone and/or the underlying tissues that connect the tooth to the bone. This infection can cause loss of the tooth or in severe cases, a broken jaw at the site of the infection that can be difficult to repair.

In next month's newsletter, we will go into detail about the dental procedure itself and how we determine if a tooth needs to be removed!