

Four Stages of Periodontal Disease

CANINE

Stage I Gingivitis -
Margin of attached gingiva (gum) is inflamed and swollen. Plaque covering teeth. Treatment can reverse condition.



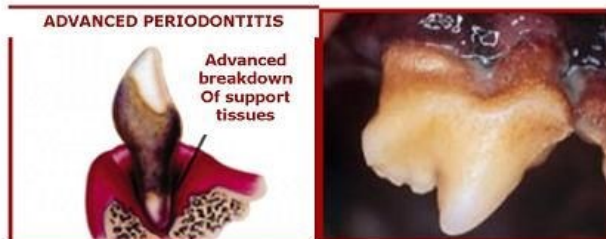
Stage II Early Periodontitis -
Entire attached gum is inflamed and swollen. Mouth is painful and odor begins to be noticeable. Professional treatment and home dental care can prevent this from becoming irreversible.



Stage III Moderate Periodontitis -
Cherry red and bleeding attached gum is being destroyed by infection and calculus (tartar). Sore mouth affects eating and behavior. Bad breath is present. Beginning of periodontal disease. May be irreversible.



Stage IV Advanced Periodontitis -
Chronic bacterial infection is destroying the gum, tooth and bone. Bacteria may be spreading throughout the entire body via the bloodstream and may damage the kidneys, liver and heart.



Feline Dental Disease

<p><input type="checkbox"/> Grade 1</p> <p>Attached gum is swollen and inflamed. Plaque covering the teeth. Condition can be treated with home care—talk to your veterinarian about home care options for your cat.</p>		<p>Inflamed and Swollen Gums</p> <p>Plaque buildup</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Grade 2</p> <p>Entire attached gum is inflamed and swollen. Mouth is painful and odor begins to be noticeable. Dental treatment to remove tartar is needed along with a home care plan.</p>		<p>Sub-gingival Calculus</p> <p>Inflamed Gums</p> <p>Crestal bone loss</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Grade 3</p> <p>Bleeding attached gum is being destroyed by infection and calculus (tartar). Sore mouth affects eating and behavior. Bad breath is present. Dental treatment needed immediately.</p>		<p>Buildup of calculus and infection</p> <p>Gingival Recession</p> <p>Increased bone loss</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Grade 4</p> <p>Chronic bacterial infection is destroying the gum, tooth and bone. Bacteria may be spreading throughout the entire body via the bloodstream and may damage the kidneys, liver and heart. Damage is irreversible.</p>		<p>Severe gum loss and tooth root exposure (dashed line indicates initial gum-line)</p> <p>Advanced breakdown of supportive tissues.</p>

If your cat falls within grades 2 through 4, a dental cleaning may be necessary to remove calculus and infection. If the disease has progressed into moderate or advanced periodontitis some teeth may need to be extracted and antibiotics prescribed to halt the pain and infection in your cats mouth.

Speak to your veterinarian today about your cats periodontal health and to develop a treatment plan to control the progression of the disease.

Dental health is about more than a fresh breath and pretty smile!