

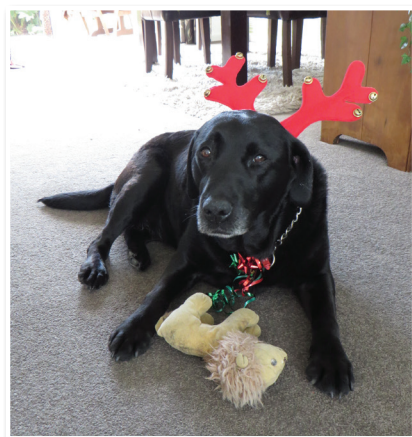


## McMASTER & HEAP VETERINARY PRACTICE

# SAM'S DENTAL DAY OUT

**T**HE month of August is "DENTAL" month at McMaster and Heap Vets. We realise the importance of sparkling teeth, fresh breath and healthy gums in your pet. Most pet owners don't thoroughly check their pets mouth therefore it is up to us as vets to examine each tooth looking for signs of plaque, tartar buildup, erosive lesions (holes in the enamel), fractured or diseased teeth, dead teeth and missing teeth. We also carefully examine up under the gum margin checking for exposed roots and we assess the gums, tonsils and tongue for ulcers, cancers, injury, infection, cysts and many more.

Most cats and dogs continue to eat normally with a sore, diseased mouth. They will often have normal appetites, energy levels and interact and play as per usual. Some clinical signs you may experience are a terrible breath, drooling saliva more than usual with wet looking lips, rubbing of the mouth along surfaces, not wanting to pick up and play with toys or bones and maybe a bit head shy. You may also notice your pet is eating more slowly or refusing dry food, preferring only the soft variety.



Recently I saw a fabulous 11 year old black Labrador, Sam, who for the past month had been eating her dry food rather slowly. She would pick up kibble and drop it, taking ages to get through her days food—very unlike a Labrador! Canned food wasn't a problem. Her clinical exam was normal although her breath wasn't fresh! She had moderate tartar on all her teeth but her gums looked healthy. She resented me checking out her mouth thoroughly, which was unlike her. Her blood and urine tests were unremarkable.

She was admitted for a dental

examination under general anaesthesia, scale and polish and digital dental xrays if warranted. Once the tartar was scaled off her teeth looked great. We probed all her teeth checking for erosive lesions, fractures or decay.

One lower premolar tooth looked slightly discoloured (this can mean the tooth is dead) so we xrayed the premolar teeth on the left side. The tooth in question had abnormal tooth roots on xray so it was removed and the socket sutured closed. All Sam's teeth looked worn down and blunt, which can happen in dogs who chew stones or bones a lot. I think through hard chewing she had damaged this premolar's roots causing her neurogenic pain and possibly infection, resulting in difficulty eating anything hard. Sam was discharged on antibiotics, anti-inflammatories and pain medications. Hopefully she will make a full recovery and be back to devouring her food.

Preventative homecare is a vital part of keeping your pet's teeth and gums healthy. At McMaster & Heap we recommend dental biscuits designed to clean teeth and fight plaque as well as tooth brushing in some instances. There are also toys, mouth washes and treats designed to help with plaque control.

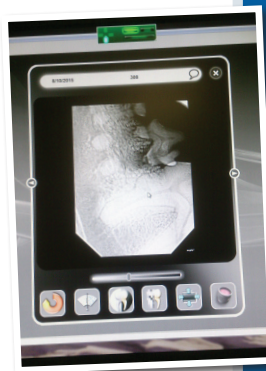
So bring in your treasured friend for a FREE dental assessment with a skilled nurse. If dental surgery is advised you will receive a FREE bag of dental dry



food and a dental toy, while stocks last. There will also be a FREE post op check in a week.

Please check us out and LIKE us on Facebook.

Dr Michele McMaster



**OPEN 7 DAYS**

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