Dental disease is a silent process that may cause many other illnesses, including kidney, heart, and blood infections.

When pets don’t receive the dental care they need to keep their teeth clean and their gums healthy, their mouths can harbor bad bacteria.

Blame these bacteria for gum disease (also known as periodontal disease) in pets. Almost immediately after an animal eats, bacteria, along with food, saliva and other particles, begin forming a sticky film called plaque over teeth.

When the body of your dog or cat senses a foreign invader, it marshals white blood cells to attack. In turn, the bacteria in plaque tells the white blood cells to release enzymes to break down gum tissue. This skirmish leads to inflamed gums, destroyed tissue and loss of bone. The end result: Tooth loss.

Periodontal disease happens five times more often in dogs than in people. The reason? Dogs have a more alkaline mouth than humans, which promotes plaque formation. Also, most pets don’t have their teeth brushed every day, giving plaque-forming bacteria the chance they need to multiply.

This February Crest View will be celebrating “Pet Dental Month” again. Last year we were able to help many pets live with healthier mouths. If you feel your pets would benefit from a dental procedure we encourage you to take advantage of the discounts and savings this year.

Is antifreeze toxic to your pets?

Find the answer on the next page
Winter Foot Care

- Rock salt, used to melt snow and ice, can irritate paw pads. Clean pads thoroughly after a trip outside.
- Uneven, icy surfaces can slash dogs’ paw pads, so keep your dog on a leash or dress him or her in canine booties.
- Without hard surfaces to act as a natural file, dogs’ toenails grow longer in winter, so regularly clip your pet’s nails.

Quiz Answer: Yes (okay that was an easy one)
The most commonly used ingredient in antifreeze is ethylene glycol. It is important to remember that ethylene glycol is a very potent alcohol; for that reason, many of the signs of ethylene glycol toxicosis will relate to severe alcohol intoxication. In addition, ethylene glycol is broken down to metabolites (e.g. oxalic acid) that cause damage to the kidney tubules, resulting in kidney failure. Because of the different mechanisms involved in ethylene glycol toxicosis, clinical signs frequently change throughout the course of the toxicosis. The clinical signs can be broken down into 3 different stages, although considerable overlap between these stages may be seen and some animals will not experience each stage. Death can occur at any stage. The stages are 1) neurologic, the initial inebriation due to the effects of alcohol on the CNS, 2) cardiopulmonary, due to severe acidosis and electrolyte disturbances, and 3) renal, due to renal tubular injury from calcium oxalate crystals. Treatment of ethylene glycol toxicosis must be timely and aggressive. Failure to institute appropriate therapy within the first several hours may result in irreversible renal damage or death of the animal. If your pet is exposed we may refer you immediately to a 24 hour care facility to receive the intensive care and special medications that will be needed. More recently a “pet safe” form of antifreeze is available. This product uses propylene glycol which does not cause the serious, fatal kidney damage that ethylene glycol does. However, it is important to remember that ingestion of propylene glycol-containing antifreezes may result in serious intoxication similar to that seen with other alcohols. Unfortunately antifreezes taste sweet and our pets (particularly dogs because cats do not detect sweetness) love to drink it when they find spills. **Keep all antifreeze away from your pet and clean up spills immediately.**

Pet of the month

Boe!
A 5 year old Labrador retriever.
Boe truly embraces what it means to be a lab and loves anyone and everyone that he meets. Boe always greets people with a toy in his mouth and a nice big wiggle. When not (involuntarily) posing for photographs and discovering new hiking trails Boe likes to spend his time learning tricks, following Kacey from room to room and snoozing on the couch with his cat brother, Harvey (and Mom), ignoring his multiple, and very expensive, dog beds.
Forget arachnophobia. Think entonophobia, the fear of ticks.

Everyone spends spring through fall worrying about ticks. Protecting their pets from them and avoiding them themselves.

Let’s talk about the four most common ticks in our area.

**Amblyomma americanum**

*a.k.a. The lone star tick*

These assertive ticks actually *hunt down* their hosts. Most lone star ticks quest, or wait on low shrubs, bushes and blades of grass—some run toward their host instead of passively waiting for an opportunity. Historically they were mainly in the South but have migrated and can be found in the southern 2/3 of the country. They start looking for host in February, and can transmit many diseases (Ehrlichiosis most commonly in our area)

**Dermacentor variabilis**

*a.k.a. The American dog tick*

This tick may have “dog” in its name, but that doesn’t matter much when it’s looking for a blood meal. The American dog tick infests cats and urban wildlife, such as opossums, raccoons, rabbits and squirrels—which means these ticks are probably in your backyard. The American dog tick starts to look for hosts in February. In our area there are not a lot of infections seen that are caused by this tick although they can cause Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

**Rhipicephalus sanguineus**

*a.k.a. The brown dog tick*

This species of tick is the only one that prefers to feed off of dogs through all of its life stages. It can also survive at a much lower humidity than other ticks and is the only tick species in North America that can infest buildings, including our homes.

(Cont. next page)

---

Kacey Haldaway

Kacey started as a client over 5 years ago and now is a full time employee at Crest View.

When not helping animals at Crest View or at her second job, stocking shelves at the pet store, she spends her free time doing multiple activities; playing with her dog (Boe), dog sitting for other people, reading books, and binge watching shows on Netflix. Kacey also has an added interest in dog behavior and training.

Her future career goal is to obtain training and certification in Canine Physical Rehabilitation in response to complications from her Labrador retriever’s ACL repair and her growing interest in dog sport injuries and canine conditioning.

Kacey resides in Lincoln University with her dog Boe (our pet of the month), and her two cats Romeo and Harvey.

---
Holiday Hazards (some)

**Turkey Bones (dogs and cats)** Even if your dog looks at you with pleading eyes, resist the urge to throw holiday table scraps his way. Rich, fatty foods can cause illness, and ingested turkey bones can splinter and puncture internal organs.

**Sugar-Free Baked Goods (dogs)** Holiday cookies might look like a tempting treat for Fido, but the artificial sweetener xylitol, found in some sugar-free baked goods, can cause his blood pressure to drop to dangerously low levels.

**Chocolate**, which stimulates the nervous system and the heart, should be kept far away from four-legged friends. Although all chocolate should be avoided, dark chocolate poses a greater risk than sweeter varieties, such as milk chocolate.

**Tinsel and Ribbons** These shiny decorations may look pretty, but they can cause serious problems for cats and dogs. Never wrap tinsel or ribbon around the neck of a pet, no matter how festive it looks—this is a choking hazard.

---

**Fun Facts:**
- The world’s smallest dog was a Yorkshire terrier that weighed 4 oz.
- A tarantula spider can live almost 2 years without eating.
- A cow can sleep standing up but can only dream when laying down.
- On average, a dog sees better than a human, although not as colorful.
- For every human in the world there are over 1 million ants.
- A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
- Flamingos are pink because their main food source is shrimp.
- The average elephant weighs less than a blue whales tongue.
- Polar bears are the world’s largest land predator.
- French poodles originated in Germany.
- Only half of a dolphin’s brain sleeps at a time. The other half makes the animal come up for air to prevent drowning.
- Puppies are born deaf and blind. They start seeing and hearing around day 9-12.
- Cats aren’t the only animals that purr — squirrels, lemurs, elephants, and even gorillas purr too.
- The fear of cats is called *Ailurophobia*.

---

**Ixodes scapularis**

**a.k.a. Deer tick or black-legged tick**

Black-legged ticks thrive when deer are present, and since this is the reproductive stage, high deer numbers mean high tick numbers. The immature ticks feed on and acquire *B. burgdorferi* from rodents, but some recent data shows that other small mammals, like shrews and chipmunks, are just as important or even more important reservoir hosts in some regions. Deer tick overwinter in leaf litter and are active even after mild frosts. These ticks carry multiple diseases, Lyme, Erlichiosis and Anaplasma.

PLEASE remember to protect your pets from ticks all year round because ticks do not rest and neither can we.