



BARRINGTON COAST VETS

Diamond Beach Veterinary Clinic

1/22 Diamond Dr, Diamond Beach, NSW 2430

P: (02) 6559 2277

E: diamondbeachvet@gmail.com

Dental Disease - Client Handout

What Is Dental Disease?

Dental disease, also known as periodontal disease, is one of the most common health issues we see in adult pets. It begins with plaque buildup on the teeth, which hardens into tartar and leads to gum inflammation (gingivitis). Over time, this can progress to infection, tooth loss, and even damage to internal organs.

Signs of Dental Disease in Pets:

- Bad breath (“doggy breath” or “fishy breath”)
- Yellow or brown buildup on teeth
- Red, swollen, or bleeding gums
- Difficulty chewing or dropping food
- Preferring soft food or chewing on one side
- Pawing at the mouth or rubbing face on the ground
- Lethargy, reduced appetite, or irritability (due to pain)

What Happens if Dental Disease Is Left Untreated?

If dental disease is not treated, it can lead to:

- Chronic pain and reduced quality of life
- Tooth loss and jaw bone damage
- Abscesses or oral infections
- Spread of bacteria into the bloodstream, affecting the heart, liver, and kidneys
- Poor appetite and weight loss

Even pets who appear to eat normally may be living with silent, ongoing discomfort.

Why We Recommend a Dental Procedure

If we've recommended a dental scale and polish under general anaesthetic, it's because your pet shows signs of dental disease that can't be addressed with at-home care alone.

During this procedure, we:

- Perform a thorough oral examination under anaesthesia
- Use ultrasonic scaling to remove tartar and plaque from teeth (including under the gumline)
- Polish the teeth to slow future plaque buildup
- Extract any damaged or infected teeth as needed
- Provide pain relief and aftercare instructions to ensure a smooth recovery

This is the most effective way to restore your pet's mouth to a healthy, pain-free state.

Pre-Anaesthetic Safety

Before any dental procedure, we recommend **pre-anaesthetic blood testing** to check organ function and ensure your pet is a safe candidate for general anaesthesia. Your pet will also be closely monitored throughout the procedure by trained staff and monitoring equipment.

Aftercare & Prevention

Once your pet's mouth is healthy again, keeping it that way is key! We may recommend:

- **Hill's t/d Dental Diet** – specially designed to reduce plaque and tartar
- **Aquadent water additive** – helps control oral bacteria
- **Brushing your pet's teeth** 2–3 times a week with pet-safe toothpaste
- **Regular dental checks** during your annual health visits

Have Questions?

If you're unsure whether a dental procedure is right for your pet, or want to better understand the process, we're here to help. Treating dental disease early improves comfort, quality of life, and overall health.

Kind Regards,

The team at Barrington Coast Vets