



## Senior **Dental** Care

As with people, pets need to keep healthy teeth and gums throughout their life. As your cat matures it is more important than ever to take care of their teeth and gums.

### What is Dental Disease?

Oral health problems begin with a build up of plaque, a sticky film that is continually forming on the teeth. Plaque can harden leaving unsightly tartar if left untreated. Plaque and tartar can lead to gingivitis, a painful condition of inflamed gums, and eventually, periodontal disease may develop. In severe cases damage is so bad that the gums recede and eventually loss of teeth occurs. As the infection in the mouth increases, tonsillitis and pharyngitis can also

occur. The bacteria are absorbed into the bloodstream and carried to other organs - older cats' heart conditions are frequently due to poor oral health. Kidney and liver problems can occur too.

### How can this be prevented?

Dental disease occurs more commonly as your cat gets older. Arrange for an appointment with the dental nurse who can advise you on how best to care for your cat's teeth and gums.