

# February Newsletter

STONY BROOK ANIMAL HOSPITAL

**PET OF THE MONTH**



**MOLLY**

Molly is a 3 year old beagle who was rescued from a shelter when she was VERY pregnant. Not long after arriving in her foster home, she gave birth to 9 beautiful puppies. Molly's litter was the first litter to be seen here at Stony Brook Animal Hospital! All of her puppies have since been weaned and found new forever homes. Molly herself has found a wonderful home with the Inman family. After raising 9 puppies, it is safe to say Molly's motherhood days are over! She is ready to relax and live out her life in the lap of luxury. What a lucky girl!

**FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL PET DENTAL HEALTH MONTH!**

Why is good dental care so important for your pet? Your pet depends on his teeth to eat and chew properly. What happens when your pet can no longer chew correctly, or experiences pain while eating? Most likely, your pet will become less enthusiastic about eating and begin to lose weight. He also may become more lethargic than usual, and even irritable.

Dental disease is the most common disease of companion animals and over 90% of dogs and cats will have some degree of dental disease by the time they are 3 years old. The constant buildup of plaque and bacteria will lead to tartar formation and gingivitis (inflammation of the gums). In turn, tartar and gingivitis lead to loose, painful teeth and halitosis (bad

breath). Bacteria from the mouth can get into the bloodstream and can lead to infections of the liver, kidneys and heart valves. Routine oral health care is the key to maintaining good teeth and gums.

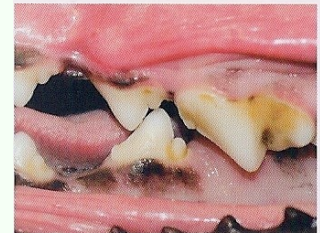
Good dental care for your dog doesn't always have to involve vet visits, either. Chew toys, such as Nylabones and rawhides, can provide a little extra dental care in between brushing your pet's teeth and dental cleanings. (Just be sure that your pet chews such treats appropriately and does not attempt to swallow large pieces whole.) For cats, a variety of dental treats are available to help cut back on the accumulation of tartar on their teeth.

**STONY BROOK'S DENTAL SPECIALS!**

- **FREE Dental exams!** Bring your pet in during the month of February so that our Doctor can check their teeth. If your pet is in need of a dental cleaning, we will send you home with a dental report card and an estimate for the procedure.
- **10% OFF** all dental cleanings during the month of February. It's the perfect time to get your pet's teeth cleaned. Please give us a call and schedule your pet's dental cleaning appointment today!



Plaque



Calculus (Tartar)



Gingivitis



Periodontitis