


FELINE FORUM

Courtesy of:



Preventing Dental Disease

 If left untreated, oral inflammation can present serious health risks for your cat. The underlying bone can become infected and the root of the tooth can become abscessed up into the nasal cavity, putting your cat at serious health risk.


Prevention is the best key to maintaining your cat's overall oral hygiene, and daily brushing is the best way. But you're probably thinking, "there is no chance that a toothbrush of any size or shape will ever see the inside of my cat's mouth." So, what should you do?

In lieu of regular brushing, tartar control diets may help delay plaque formation, as may plaque controlling gels formulated especially for cats. Do not put the gel directly on the food because cats don't chew their food and the gel would never touch their teeth.

Starting your preventative program early is the best thing to do. When you bring home your new kitten, get her used to having her teeth wiped with a soft bristled brush. Have your cat's teeth cleaned at least annually.

The cost of a typical dentistry without complications may seem high, but consider the additional cost of having to perform more expensive procedures due to oral neglect. And preventative procedures are not only less taxing to the pocketbook, they will help spare your cat the discomfort of serious oral conditions.

Seven Good Reasons to Keep Your Cat Indoors


 When you let your cat out, here are the dangers he faces:

1. Injuries from fighting.
2. Parasites like fleas, ticks, and worms.
3. Life-threatening infection by feline leukemia virus or feline immunodeficiency virus.
4. Poisons: rodent bait, and antifreeze from cars.
5. Becoming lost.
6. Moving cars and trucks.
7. Neighborhood dogs and wildlife.



The information for Feline Forum has been prepared by the Cornell Feline Health Center, Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, NY. Copyright 2002

Home Is Where the Cat Is

 Moving is high on the list of traumatic life changes for people and cats. And Katherine Houpt, VMD, veterinary behaviorist at the Cornell University Hospital for Animals, has distressing news for cat lovers: "Often, cats are more attached to their homes than they are to their owners!" Since most of us can't envision leaving our cat behind, a little advance planning can reduce her moving stress significantly.

Once you've arrived, dedicate a room where you can keep your cat and her personal effects while everything is being unloaded. Set up litter boxes, fresh food, and water. And don't give her the run of the house right away. Instead, confine the initial exploration to one or two rooms for a week or two. "Your cat's odors won't be present in the new house," notes Houpt. You can help by rubbing a soft cotton cloth gently around your cat's chin or cheek to pick up her scent profiles. Dab this around your new house at cat height daily so that she begins to feel at home. Recognizing the sights and smells of all your old things will help reassure her.

Whether you're moving across the street or halfway across the world, good planning and extra love and attention can make the difference between a cat that spends the next two weeks huddled in a closet, and a cat that can't wait to have a blast with your empty packing cartons! Rest assured — you both will survive the move and soon enjoy your brand new house. After all, home is where the cat is!

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