

Dental Care for your Pet in the Greater Seattle Area

Why Dental Care Matters

Dental disease is one of the most common health problems in dogs—by age 3, more than 80% of dogs have signs of periodontal disease. Left untreated, dental issues can lead to pain, tooth loss, infections, and even heart, kidney, or liver damage, not to mention costly veterinary bills. It's important to develop good dental hygiene practices early on to best support your dog's long-term health and comfort.

At-Home Dental Care Routine

Daily or regular at-home care can make a big difference in preventing dental disease. The goal is to keep plaque and tartar from building up, which helps avoid costly professional procedures. Start slowly and make dental care a positive experience for your dog—use treats, praise, and patience.

Brush your dog's teeth with a dog-specific toothbrush and toothpaste (never human toothpaste as it may contain xylitol or other harmful additives to pets) or dental wipes and offer dental chews. The important thing is to use some form of friction to keep teeth clean and healthy. However, even with great at-home care, your pet may still need professional cleaning at some point.

Warning Signs of Dental Problems

Your dog can't tell you when something's wrong, so it's important to know the signs that may indicate a dental issue. Seek veterinary advice if you notice bad breath, red, swollen or bleeding gums, loose or broken teeth, difficult eating or chewing, pawing or drooling from the mouth, or sudden tooth loss.

Types of Veterinary Dental Care

Your regular veterinarian can handle many dental needs, such as basic cleaning, minor extractions, and general dental advice. However, for more complex cases, a veterinary dentist is the expert you want. And even within the veterinary dental specialty, there are

veterinary dentists who are specialists, and there are also board-certified veterinary dentists have completed years of advanced training in oral surgery, complex extractions, root canals, and specialized anesthesia. **Board-certified veterinary dentists** are Diplomates of the American Veterinary Dental College (AVDC) and complete 3–4 additional years of dental-specific training, and they typically have advanced equipment, monitoring capabilities, and may be affiliated with full pet hospitals so they can offer a wide range of care in the event of complications. This can be important to certain types of pets who may be considered “higher risk,” for example, pugs and French bulldogs who are brachycephalic (short-nosed) breeds and often require special attention. Also pets with serious respiratory conditions or smaller pets, where the size or shape of the mouth can be more difficult to treat.

If your pet shows any signs of potential discomfort or if you suspect dental issues, you may need to take your pet to the general vet first for immediate relief, as it can take several months to get an appointment with a veterinary dental specialist.



Directory: Veterinary Dentists in Greater Seattle Area

While no official registry was found in our search, the following are reputable dental specialists and clinics that serve King County and surrounding areas:

() denotes board-certified dentists, however we always recommend confirming before booking an appointment. Veterinary board certification can also be confirmed on [avdc.org](https://www.avdc.org).*

- **Animal Dentistry Specialists of Seattle** (Renton, WA) - Dr. Diane Carle* | animaldentistseattle.com | 425-282-4042
- **Blue Pearl** (Tacoma, WA) - Dr. Deborah Hoddeson*, Dr. Ami Rossi* | bluepearlveter.com | 253-474-0791
- **Felix & Fido (Issaquah, WA)** - Dr. Allen Matson* | Felixandfido.com | 425-243-1323
- **Houndstooth Veterinary Dentistry & Oral Surgery** (Longview, WA) - Dr. Ginger Grellmann, Dr. Tammy Renteria* | houndstoothveter.com | 360-207-1203
- **Pet Dental Specialists** (Vancouver, WA) - Dr. Alice Sievers*, Dr. Kevin Stepaniuk*, Dr. Sarah Bonner* | pdsvet.com | 360-583-3580
- **Puget Sound Veterinary Specialists (Gig Harbor, WA)** - Dr. Lindsay Schneider* | pugetsoundvetspecialists.com | 360-871-9651
- **Seattle Veterinary Dentistry** (Mercer Island, WA) - Dr. Evan Crocker | seattleveterdentistry.com | 206-501-5221
- **Veterinary Dental Specialties** (Tukwila, WA) - Dr. Cody Fielder, Dr. Brook Niemiec | 425-437-8959 | <https://www.vdspets.com/location/seattle/>



Low-Cost Dental Veterinary Dental Services in Greater Seattle Area

The cost of veterinary dental care can feel overwhelming, and in general, you can expect fees to be even higher from veterinary dental specialists. Therefore, for many pets, a general veterinarian who offers dental cleanings and extractions as part of their services may be the most budget-friendly choice. These general practitioners can provide essential cleanings and minor procedures at a lower cost than a specialist. You should also ask about financing, monthly payment, promotional discounts or sliding scale payment options through your vet.

If your regular vet is still unable to accommodate your needs, we've compiled a list of some community-based and lower income clinics and veterinary practices that also offer no or lower cost dental services:

- [Broadway Veterinary Hospital](#) – Offers monthly payment plan for dental cleanings, full mouth x-rays, scaling, polishing and bloodwork.
- [Doney Coe Pet Clinic](#) – Provides no-cost veterinary care, including medically necessary dental procedures (as available), to homeless and low-income residents of Seattle/King County. Services are offered on-site during walk-in clinic days and all visits are free.
- [Holly Vet Clinic](#) (Kenmore/Seattle area) – Dental cleanings with anesthesia start at \$700 and full mouth dental x-rays start at \$300. Though not nonprofit, they provide upfront, transparent pricing for dental procedures.
- [Ranier Animal Fund Clinics](#) – Qualifying Washington residents have access to RAF's clinical services including dental care.

NOTE: All information in this guide should be verified with your vet or veterinary dentist, especially before starting any new hygiene practices.