

CHAT

## Never Ignore Bad Breath

Your cat jumps onto your lap for its morning scratch session, nuzzles your face in appreciation, and you get a whiff of "morning mouth" that you thought was only a human condition. Now we humans would race to the bathroom, brush, gargle and hope we smelled sweeter. But your feline friend can't do that and what you smell could be signaling a serious problem. Do not ignore it!



Ninety percent of the time, bad breath in cats indicates a dental problem. Cats get gingivitis, an inflammation of the gums caused by plaque and tartar build up on the surface of the teeth. One indicator of gingivitis is bad breath, and the problem is easily treated by having your cat's teeth cleaned. When signs of gingivitis (red, bleeding gums and bad breath) are ignored, your cat is at risk of developing a more serious oral problem. Periodontitis, which results from gingivitis that has been neglected, affects the structures supporting the teeth. If your cat shows any of the signs of gingivitis, combined with an unwillingness to eat, the gingivitis may have advanced to periodontitis, which makes it painful and uncomfortable to chew food.

Another complication of untreated mouth ailments is stomatitis, inflammation of the entire mouth. By this point there may be large painful sores in your cat's mouth and she is likely not eating. Currently there is no good treatment for it, so sometimes the only remedy is to pull all the teeth. Early diagnosis and treatment of dental disease is the best way to keep morning breath away. ■

## 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.

more expensive procedures due to oral neglect. Preventative procedures are not only less taxing to the pocketbook, they will help spare your cat the discomfort of serious oral conditions. ■

Starting your Dental Health 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

### \$25 OFF DENTAL SERVICES\*

We offer a complete Dental Health Program including:

- FREE dental evaluation
- Thorough dental cleaning
- Dental radiographs
- Detection of any oral abnormalities
- Home and preventative care

Please call 310-479-CHAT (2428)  
for an appointment.

\* Expires 9-1-03 and Products Are Excluded

WESTSIDE HOSPITAL  
FOR CATS



WESTSIDE HOSPITAL FOR CATS  
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## Flea Season Is Here !!!

You may be surprised to know that even cats that never go outside will get fleas. All of you probably carry in a few fleas on your clothing or shoes that then feed off your cats and reproduce in your house. We recommend two of the topical products, which are applied monthly to the back of your cat's neck. Beware that the pet store vials do not contain the same active ingredients as the veterinary products and may not be effective.

The topical products may be safely applied to kittens at six weeks of age and older. We recommend using the products starting in May and continuing through October, for all cats. Most outdoor cats should have monthly flea control applied all year. Call our office to discuss which product is best suited for your cats. ■

## Grand Opening Of Our Luxury Boarding Facility



We are proud to introduce our brand new custom condos and townhouses located upstairs. The new boarding area is clean, bright, colorful and completely separate from the hospital facility. All new units have a sunny window view with a perch and space to climb. Our sensitive, highly trained staff shows each cat individual attention throughout the day and tailors a feeding and medication plan for any cats requiring medical care.

Our specialty is senior cats. We pride ourselves on keeping them active, making sure they eat well and giving them lots of love while you're away. We will also socialize your new kittens for you if you must travel to ensure that their bond with humans is positive and fun!

You have the option of renting connecting units either side-by-side or up and down for additional exercise or to house more than one cat from the same household. Stop by for a tour soon! ■

### FREE OFFER\*

One night of luxury boarding.

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