



Dr. Andrea Wernham

Veterinary Dental Practitioner

The Veterinary Dental Practitioner (VDP) program was established by Dr. Brett Beckman, a board-certified Veterinary Dentist, to provide training for General Practice veterinarians that want to provide a high level of dentistry for their patients. They are well-qualified veterinarians in General Practice to provide safe and proper oral care to your loved ones. However, they are not board-certified specialists.

Treatment Plans

Treatment plans are provided to all patients in need of dental care. We will do our best to estimate costs accurately. If there are additional concerns noted during the COHAT, owners will be contacted to discuss next steps.

What are the Financing Options?

We understand that dental surgery is expensive, especially in later stages of disease. Financing is available through ScratchPay or Humm.

We are unable to provide payment plans ourselves. You can apply online by clicking the link on our Client Resources tab.



FELINE STOMATITIS

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What is Feline Stomatitis?

Feline Chronic Gingivostomatitis (FCGS) is widespread severe oral inflammation (beyond gingivitis) of the mucosal lining of the mouth. It frequently extends into the deeper submucosal tissues at the back of the mouth and throat.

There is no known cause of stomatitis; it is thought to arise from an altered immune system and an inappropriate over-reaction to the presence of plaque on the teeth.

Certain viruses such as FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus), FeLV (Feline Leukemia Virus) and Calicivirus might impact the immune response and increase the risk for stomatitis. Living in a multi-cat household also increases the risk for stomatitis.

How to Diagnose Stomatitis?

Severe inflammation that extends to the toothless areas such as the back of the mouth is reflective of stomatitis. Knowing a cat's viral status is helpful, but doesn't change the recommended treatment.

Any lesions that don't fit the expected presentation should be biopsied. Rule outs include: eosinophilic granuloma complex, fungal disease or squamous cell carcinoma.

A thorough anesthetized oral examination with periodontal probing and intraoral dental radiographs should always be performed as part of the work up.

Treatment Options

Stomatitis is a surgical disease.

It cannot be managed medically as long as teeth are still present in the mouth. Because teeth are plaque retentive, it is impossible to achieve the degree of plaque control required to stop the over-reaction of the immune system.

The first step in managing cats with stomatitis is always full-mouth extractions. 65% of cats will have full resolution of their symptoms following full-mouth extractions. The sooner the surgery is performed, the greater the chance for cure. Having FeLV decreases the success rate for remission following extraction. The longer a cat is treated medically prior to extractions decreases the success rate following extractions.

Medications

Pain medications are required prior to and following surgery. It can take up to 3 months following surgery for symptoms to fully resolve, and ongoing supportive care can be required during this time.

Approximately 30% of cats will be refractory and require ongoing medical management.

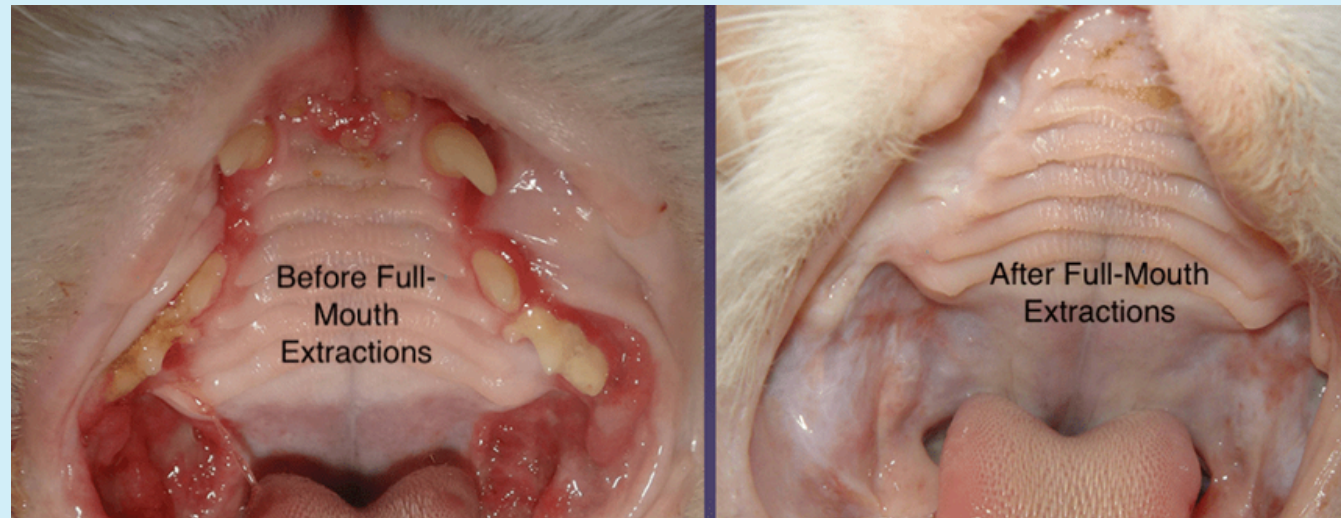
Commonly prescribed medications include:

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as Meloxicam or Onsior. Gabapentin, Solensia or Buprenorphine may be used for additional pain management.

Immunomodulating drugs such as Cyclosporin or steroids may be used to reduce the immune response to plaque.

Sub-microbial doses of the antibiotic Doxycycline has anti-inflammatory effects.

Antivirals such as Interferon may be used in patients with a positive viral status to support the immune system.



Feline Chronic Gingivostomatitis - Veterinary Dentistry Specialists