

There are times when medications are necessary to improve a dog or cat's quality of life, however there can be side effects. Some of these side effects can affect oral health, which means pets taking medications can have additional oral health needs.

We all know we should brush our pets' teeth, but the reality is that only a small

percentage of dogs and cats have their teeth brushed and very rarely do owners brush every day. And for those on medications, even brushing may not be sufficient.

Xerostomia, aka Dry Mouth, is a condition both people and pets can experience, and the most common cause is due to commonly prescribed medications. It can affect the quantity or protective quality of healthy saliva. When the oral flora in

SOME OF THE MOST COMMON MEDICATIONS THAT CAN AFFECT A PET'S ORAL HEALTH INCLUDE:

- Anti-Anxiety/Behavior Meds
- NSAIDS for pain such as osteoarthritis
- Antihistamines
- Medications for heart disease or blood pressure
- Urinary incontinence meds
- Chemotherapeutics

the mouth becomes unbalanced, bacteria or fungus (such as yeast) can grow and proliferate. If Dry Mouth is not managed, it can lead to severe bad breath, excess plaque accumulation, periodontal disease and even tooth loss. Many pet owners will overlook Dry Mouth because their dog may still drool.

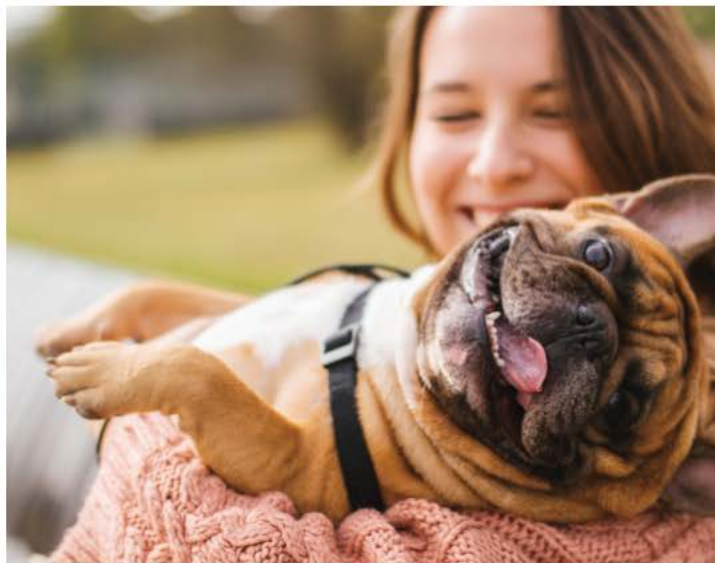
Helping your pet enjoy the best oral health possible is a multi-step approach: provide ample fresh drinking water, establish an oral care routine that you can easily manage, and have your pet's teeth cleaned. When choosing oral care products, look for products that are veterinarian-recommended and are formulated to combat Dry Mouth such as enzyme-based oral care that also removes plaque biofilm and eliminates the germs that cause bad breath.

Dr. Naomi Kirby Sismour is a Veterinary Technical Consultant with Pet King Brands, the maker of ZYMOX® Ear and Skin products and Oratene® Brushless Oral Care. www.zymox.com

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PETS ON MEDICATIONS HAVE SPECIAL ORAL HEALTH NEEDS

The importance of routine dental cleanings and radiographs



Naomi Kirby Sismour, DVM, MS