

Greyhound

Update



A Newsletter from the National Greyhound Adoption Program, Inc.
8301 Torresdale Avenue - Phila, PA 19136 (215)331-7918 - (215)331-1947 - Fax - ngap@ix.netcom.com (web site -<http://shell.idt.net/~smoser19/ngap.html>) Spring 1998

ORAL HYGIENE (You Better Pay Attention!)

Many of our adopted greyhounds are now over five years old. We usually can tell how old they are by simply looking in their mouth. Unfortunately, some greyhound's mouths will be older than their age and the adopter has a lot to do with that. Since NGAP has its own surgical facility we offer adopters the ability to bring their greyhounds to us for a dental cleaning. We subsequently see many adopted greyhounds that are 5, 6, 7, and 8 years old that need to have their teeth cleaned in an aggressive manner. We have now found that we routinely extract between 10-20 teeth-that's right 20 teeth-from many greyhounds mouths. Recently in one 10 day period we extracted over 100 teeth from 6 greyhounds. We only do it because it is necessary. If your greyhound has extreme root exposure, tartar or calculus it will build-up quickly and as that tartar builds up it will only push the gum line back farther and create higher bacteria levels in your dog's mouth. Some adopters seem to be totally unaware of the dental problems their greyhound has other than knowing that it's mouth is foul.

We have found most veterinarians are not aggressive enough when it comes to extractions. That could be that either they don't do many and are not properly skilled or they just don't pay attention to your dog's mouth. WE DO. There are many

things that you can do to alleviate the problem so that as your greyhound ages its mouth and gums won't. We know that many people may have been quoted numbers over \$500.00 for extractions and facing that kind of a bill they are hesitant to have the work done. They also believe that it is very important to have these teeth in order to properly eat. That is not true. A greyhound will do fine on a smaller kibble with almost no teeth in its mouth as long as there are a few there to keep the tongue from falling out, it will do just fine. That foul mouth and the resulting bacteria can ultimately cause your greyhound to die. The poisons coming from the teeth and gums literally will go through its body and ultimately determine how well your greyhound feels.

About four years ago, Roscoe, was returned to us. He was lethargic, did not eat well and was uncomfortable eating. This was before we had our surgical facility so we literally sent him out and had his teeth cleaned two times with some extractions, by a local veterinarian and then once by the University of Pennsylvania. I kept Roscoe at my home for several months. When he first came to us he didn't want to run, he didn't want to eat, he didn't want to play, he just wanted to lay around.

When we were finished getting his mouth back in order we adopted him to Sue Moser. When he left he ran, he played and he wanted to be the leader of the pack. Sue is an extraordinary person and literally brushes his teeth several times a day. So his teeth are just as good now as when she first adopted him or even better.

We have come a long way since Roscoe was returned to us and learned procedures where we can safely extract large numbers of teeth at one time where the dogs respond well and are back in stride in just a few days.

We have listed some of the things you need to do to avoid a 20 tooth extraction on your greyhound. If you follow one or more of these methods your greyhound can have a clean smelling mouth, will be able to chew on treats, will not have gingivitis or periodontal disease. You will have a happy camper. Literally everyone should check their dog's mouth at least once a month. You simply lift up the lip, look at the canines in the front and the molars in the back and see if they are white. If they are not white you probably have tartar build-up that needs to be dealt with.

