

Signs of Oral Pain

Feline Periodontal Disease can affect your cat's quality of life and longevity. What are the signs my cat may have oral pain?



1. No signs or symptoms at all.

Cats are masters of disguise and often show no signs of oral pain at all. Most cats will continue to eat and go about their daily lives due to survival instincts.

2. Bad breath.

Your cat's "fish breath" is actually a result of the bacterial metabolic process. As the bacteria multiplies and infection worsens, your cat's bad breath will also worsen.

3. Altered behavior.

Many cats who are in pain will hide more. Some will also display aggressive behaviors towards you or other housemates. You may notice your cat drop food from its mouth or chew on one side. They may also become anorexic or picky eaters. Vocalizing when yawning, decreased grooming, pawing at the face, and potentially any behavioral change can all be warning signs.

4. Bleeding from the mouth or missing teeth.

Bleeding may occur due to gingivitis, stomatitis, fractured teeth, ulcerative sores, or oral tumors. You may also notice missing incisors (the tiny front teeth) when your cat opens their mouth.

5. Systemic effects.

Periodontal disease leads to chronic pain. This can affect the entire body of your cat. Decreased energy, high blood pressure, gastrointestinal issues, myopathies, feline idiopathic cystitis (urinary pain), as well as functional and structural changes to the brain are all common health risks associated with chronic pain. Chronic oral inflammation may also increase the risk of oral cancer.

6. Return to normal activity after dental treatment.

After your cat's oral disease is treated and oral pain is eliminated, you may notice your cat has increased energy. Often clients will say they are playing again and what they previously perceived as aging was in fact due to oral infection and pain.