

My name is Deborah Glottmann, CVT. I have a bachelor's degree in Pre Vet/Equine Sciences from UMASS Amherst. I have been a veterinary technician since 1987. I have been the President of the Vermont Veterinary Technician Association since 2006 and Vice President in 2005. I have put together some notes below that will hopefully help you understand my position on the subject at hand as an experienced veterinary technician.

- To be a certified technician in the state of Vermont you must have graduated from an AVMA accredited Veterinary Technology Program, you must have passed the Veterinary Technician National Exam, and you must complete 18 hours of continuing education every two years.
- *To be a boarded Veterinary Dental Technician as stated by the ADVT (Academy of Dental Veterinary Technicians): Candidates need to be a credentialed veterinary technician for a minimum of 6000 hours with approximately 3000 of those hours having been spent in dentistry. The applicants must have a current CV or resume and a copy of their state certification. The applicant must also secure a mentor to help them along their way during the credentialing process. This mentor must be either a member of the AVDT or a Diplomate of the AVDC who is willing to donate their time.*

*Once the application is accepted, a CD will be sent to the applicant with the format for case logs, case reports, and CE requirements, along with a required and recommended reading list. The packet will also contain the format and other requirements for the credentials packet to be submitted. The credentialing process takes approximately 2 years. The applicant does not have to work for a dental specialist to be able to attain their VTS (Dentistry) designation, but does need to have access to some advanced dental procedures that will be required. The applicant is also strongly advised to be a member of NAVTA and the American Veterinary Dental Society. This organization is the approved Society of the AVDT and holds an Annual Veterinary Dental Forum where the applicant will have access to most of the CE required for credentialing.*

*After the credentials packet is accepted, the applicant is then known as a candidate and will be eligible to sit for the exam, which is held yearly. The exam is a three part exam held in Baltimore, Maryland, at the Animal Dental Training Center.*

*Once the candidate has successfully passed all three parts of the exam, they will be granted the VTS (Dentistry) designation, which will open up their career opportunities exponentially. Opportunities for speaking engagements, teaching opportunities, and publishing will be available. Overall, this program is arduous at times, but highly attainable for the motivated veterinary technician who wants to further their career in veterinary dentistry.*

As you can see getting a specialty in dentistry is not an easy feat. We currently do not have a boarded CVT, VTS (Dentistry) in the state but we have a couple technicians in the process of credentialing.

- **To be a groomer in the state of Vermont you need to have a storefront.**

Humans are supposed to brush twice a day. They are supposed to floss a minimum of once a day. Dogs and cats never brush or floss. Dental care is difficult. It places pet owners within their animal's personal space. It can be a dangerous place. Hence, a stranger in that personal space is even scarier. Let's proceed to the medical aspect of my concerns...



- ⊗ This dog has severe tartar, severe periodontal disease, and needs multiple extractions. This is your average over 7 year old small breed mouth.
- ⊗ If all I did was remove the tartar I would leave exposed roots, pulp and even dangling teeth. An awake dog is not going to let you pull a tooth that is only partially loose or dangling. Often the only thing holding a tooth in is nominal gum and tartar.
- ⊗ What does the groomer do then?
- ⊗ Look at the decay. When we remove the tartar we most often will have puss pouring out from behind the tartar. We extract the tooth, flush the pocket with a disinfectant and sometimes inject antibiotic paste directly into the pocket & gingiva because the infection is so bad. If a groomer only took the tartar off of these teeth this dog would then swallow all the infection and is at great risk for a systemic infection. The tartar is actually protecting this dog's roots and pulp cavities from being completely exposed. It is better to do nothing and let the dog continue to have a small amount of chronic infection than a huge infusion of infection at one time. Taking the tartar off without addressing the underlying disease leaves the animal more painful.
- ⊗ Most of these breeds are predisposed to heart disease and this is a direct hit to the kidneys and heart without any systemic antibiotics or fluid support to flush these toxins out of the body.



Post Dental:

Take Note: This dog had 28 teeth extracted. Most came out with only nominal elevating. Most of these teeth were held in with tartar.

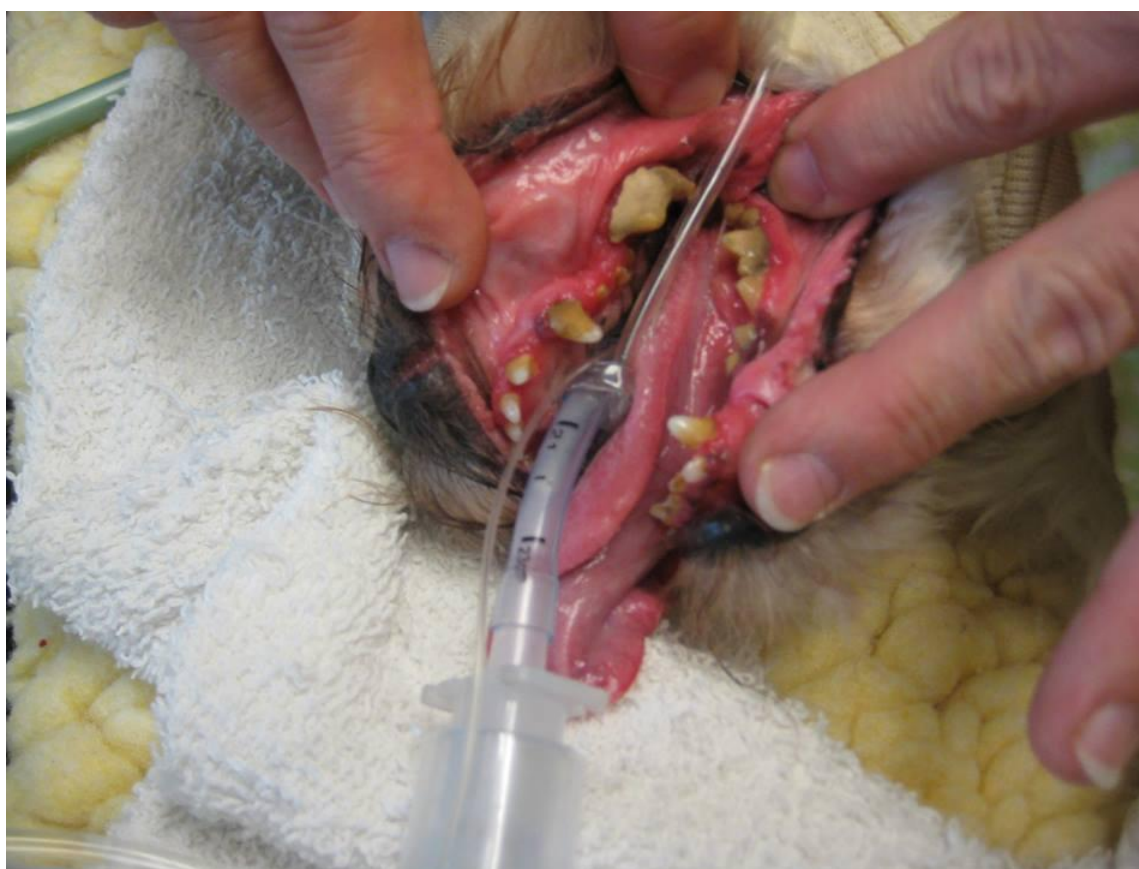
After the extractions the dog had an ultrasonic scaling, polishing with pumice powder, and a fluoride treatment of his remaining teeth. Some vets now use enamel sealants as well.

An average dental can take 1-4 hours. Some animals have infections that tract directly into the sinus cavity, directly behind the eye, etc. This is not a calf castration or a goat castration. This is a technical procedure that I have been learning for a 25 years. The training in school was just the beginning. That just taught me the anatomy and how to use the equipment. My daily experience is what makes my patients safe and me good at my job.

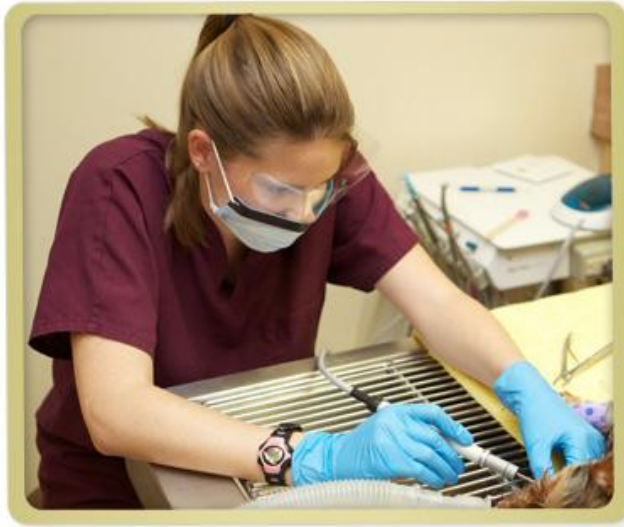
Doing something because you can, or kinda know how, does not mean you should. Ethically, I live by my our vow to do no harm If I make a mistake and cause harm I am held responsible by my employer and the Vermont Veterinary State Board. Who fixes the problems that may arise from a groomer dabbling in this.... Oh yes, that may be me and my employer.



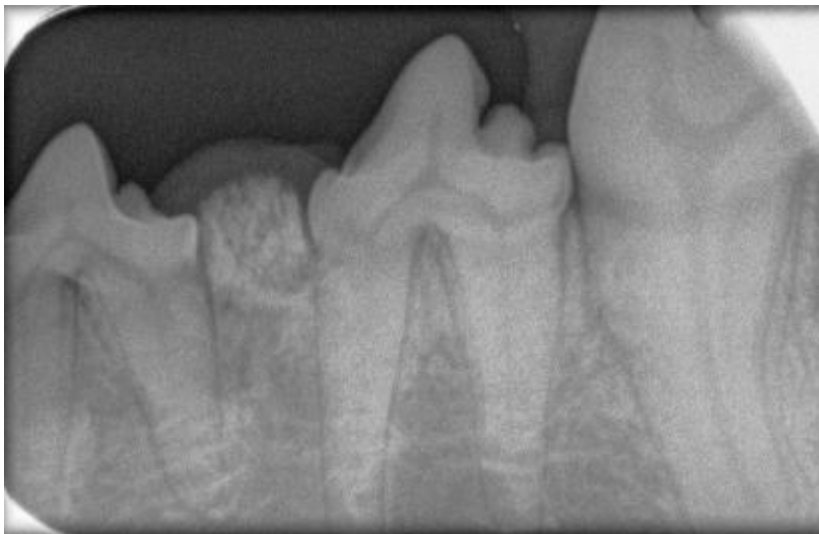
This dog lost every tooth. Even teeth that look ok from the front can have pockets in the back. This is a perfect example of why clicking tartar off is NOT ok without antibiotics and true diagnostic care.



Appropriate protective gear is important for the patient and the technician. In a grooming shop would the other groomers, bathers, clients be protected from the aerosolized bacteria?



Please note that only 1/3 of the tooth is above the gumline. Cleaning the top 1/3 does not stop the disease and decay that is already happening in the bottom 2/3. The rest of the tooth needs to be evaluated and treated.





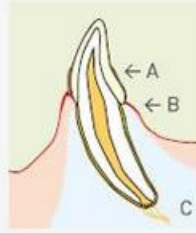
This is severe disease. A groomer should not touch this. This dog needs antibiotics already circulating in its body before you stir this hornets' nest.

I heard on taped testimony a committee member state that in all their years they had never done any type of dental care on their animals. I genuinely apologize to that committee member. My industry has failed her as a client and her pets as patients. Her pets could have longer and more comfortable lives. She could have been made aware of this so she knew to watch for it.

Affordability is an issue. Dentals can cause \$250-\$800.00 in an average practice. Our key is to educate early. Every new puppy but especially any new Yorkie, Bichon Frise, Shitzu, Chihuahua, Italian Greyhound, Terrier, Poodles, or mixes of any of the above **I educate, educate, educate so the pet owner knows it is not if but when.** They need to understand that these breeds congenitally have terrible teeth and the animal's future needs to include daily dental care and potential veterinary dental intervention.

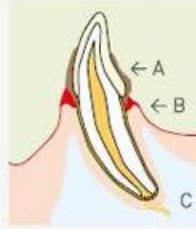


**GRADE 1**



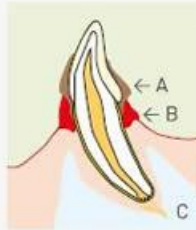
- A. Plaque and calculus deposit
  - B. Inflamed gingiva
  - C. Zero bone loss
- Marginal gingivitis  
Mild plaque and calculus  
Pocket depth < 2mm  
Reversible with scale/polish

**GRADE 2**



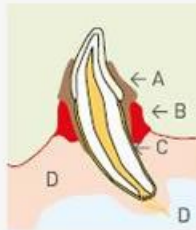
- A. Plaque and calculus extend down
  - B. Pocket forming
  - C. Mild bone loss
- Gingival recession  
Plaque and calculus extend to root  
Furcation exposure  
Pocket depth 2-4mm

**GRADE 3**



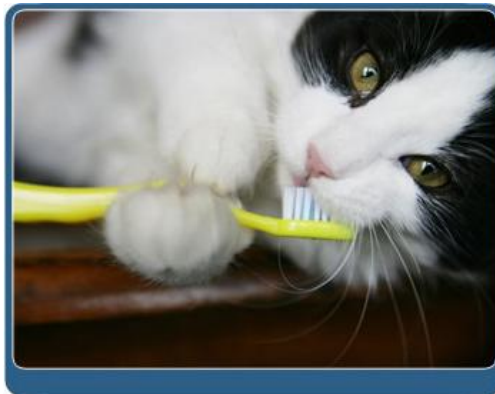
- A. Plaque and calculus extend down
  - B. Deepening pocket
  - C. Extensive bone reduction
- Ulcerated gingiva  
Plaque and calculus further down  
Pocket depth 4-8mm  
25-50% bone loss

**GRADE 4**



- A. Extensive plaque and calculus
  - B. Severe inflammation
  - C. Deep pocket
  - D. Severe bone and gum loss
- Significant loss of gingiva  
Pocket depth 8mm  
50% bone loss, tooth mobility

What Grade is it ok to just clean up a little? Brushing can at least take off this week's dead and dying bacteria but once you have as much plaque as Grade 1 you cannot get back to a perfect tooth without scaling. If you cannot do the inside of the teeth is that fair to the owner—is it thorough? Is something better than nothing? Scary question left to the untrained, unexperienced eye. People, for the most part, do not get this level of disease because they brush.



This maybe the only way you will get your cat to brush his teeth.

Please listen to a dental scaler. A dog with their keen sense of hearing does not tolerate this noise well just hearing it nearby. How about one inch from your eye and held onto your tooth. The vibration causes heat. If you leave the scaler on the tooth too long it can cause pulp and root damage. On a moving animal it might be easy to jab the scaler into the mucosa, it would be dangerously close to an eye.

I have nothing to gain from veterinary dental health except knowing I am doing no harm and helping someone's adored animal live longer. Veterinary medicine has not made me wealthy. In fact, most technicians live paycheck to paycheck. Our industry is incredibly under paid considering that I daily perform as a radiology tech, a receptionist, a surgical technician, an anesthesiology technician, a plumber, a financial advisor, and I am a hell of a MacGyver. I can fix anything with duct tape, super glue, twist ties and a syringe case.

- I can change my oil in my car but I don't know what else to inspect while I am there.
- I can write a proposal the way I think it should read but I do not have your expertise to know all the logistics that could make it a law.

Giving someone the right to do a little good but potentially a lot of harm is a slippery slope.

Who cleans up the mess when his/her "cleaning" causes systemic infection? When we then have to do an emergent dental procedure do you think this will be more or less affordable to that pet owner? Your four legged constituents and their owners need you to understand this.

My fellow technicians need to see that their education and training is respected. Letting a lay person do part of my job on an awake, un-medicated animal is dangerous and disrespectful to my field and the 150 certified technicians and hundreds of veterinary assistants in this state. I do my job every day under the watchful eye of a licensed veterinarian. Who is watching over the groomer? Who makes sure they do no harm?

Thank you for your time.

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