

St. Louis Cat Clinic  
3460 Hampton Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63139  
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**Purrfect for cats**

[www.stlouiscatclinic.com](http://www.stlouiscatclinic.com)

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## What Is Special About Dental Care at St. Louis Cat Clinic

Cats have teeth too. Their teeth, gums, and mouth should be checked at each examination. Humans have cavities, dental tartar, periodontal disease, and abscessed teeth. So do cats. Cats have some dental problems that are not seen in humans or other animals. The earlier the problems are identified, the more preventive care and treatment is possible.

At St. Louis Cat Clinic, every cat will receive a dental exam. Dr. Freesh and Dr. Kinnunen find many cats have dental disease. Dental problems are common. Many cats develop odontoclastic resorptive lesions which begin as a small erosion of the enamel close to the gum. The destructive lesion expands leaving the pulp cavity (nerves and blood vessels) exposed. This condition is painful. The cat may refuse to eat, drool, or suddenly prefer canned food rather than dry.



Plasmacytic lymphocytic gingivitis and stomatitis is a very painful condition in a cat that results in severely swollen and inflamed gums and the back of the mouth, abscessed teeth, odontoclastic resorptive lesions, a terrible mouth smell, drooling, weight loss, abnormal grumpy behavior, and refusal to eat. By the time the veterinarians at St. Louis Cat Clinic see many patients with the disease, total extraction of all teeth is all that can be done to relieve the pain.

Regular dental cleaning, as needed, is a procedure the clinic recommends to prevent gum disease and tooth decay. Dental tartar and plaque will build up on a cat's teeth just as it does in humans. Human dentists will recommend dental cleaning usually twice a year as a preventive procedure. The same preventive measures can and should be done for cats. Dental cleaning helps to prevent more costly treatments for periodontal disease and the extraction of abscessed teeth.

St. Louis Cat Clinic provides preventive dental care for cats of all ages. Dental cleaning in cats must be done under general anesthesia. The teeth are scaled with an ultrasonic dental instrument, hand scaled in some areas with deep grooves to remove more tartar, polished smooth, and treated with a fluoride foam.

All cats that undergo dental procedures at St. Louis Cat Clinic receive excellent pain control medications to keep them comfortable.

The clinic has a dental x-ray machine that is used to identify whether a tooth has an intact dental ligament. Lesions in the bone can also be detected by dental x-ray. If evidence of odontoclastic resorptive lesions or decay is present, the x-ray allows the veterinarian to determine whether to perform a crown amputation versus a full extraction. A crown amputation is easier on the cat.

Dental disease can significantly affect health. Bacteria from decaying teeth are shed into the circulatory system and can lodge on heart valves and in all organ systems resulting in significant disease. If you have ever experienced a cavity or an abscessed tooth, you can understand the pain and depression that accompany dental disease.

For more information, call the St. Louis Cat Clinic at 314-832-2287, or visit them at 3460 Hampton Avenue.

