

FELINE LYMPHOPLASMACYTIC STOMATITIS (LPS)



Despite proper oral care, there are some cats that are afflicted with severe gingivitis, painful bleeding gums and oral tissue and halitosis (bad breath). Oftentimes, a cat with LPS will have difficulty eating. In order to confirm this diagnosis, a biopsy of the tissue must be sent to a pathologist. It is theorized that LPS is caused by an **immune reaction against the plaque on the teeth or the dentin of the tooth itself**. It is important to rule out viral causes for this disease, such as Feline Leukemia, FIV and Calicivirus.



Medical treatment of LPS is typically unrewarding. Patients are treated with years of steroids, antibiotics and frequent dental cleanings yet most still require extraction of their teeth in order to finally make them comfortable.

The most effective treatment is extraction of all of the cat's teeth. Sometimes the front teeth (incisors and canines) can be spared. This surgical treatment cures greater than 90% of cats with LPS. **Laser therapy** can also be used in combination with tooth extraction to remove and destroy remaining inflammatory tissue, especially in the back of the mouth. We also use a **therapeutic k-laser** with our patients to promote healing and decrease inflammation after oral surgery.

The most common concern people have when faced with the decision to surgically treat LPS is that their cat will be in pain and unable to eat. However, it is common for cats to eat within hours of full mouth extractions. In fact, many cats continue to eat dry food even with no teeth. Once a cat's mouth completely heals (typically within 2 weeks) and the chronic pain and infection is relieved for the first time in their lives, many cat owners report that their cat acts like a kitten again!