

# CHRONIC ULCERATIVE PARADENTAL STOMATITIS



## THE CAROLINAS ANIMAL HOSPITAL AND DENTAL CLINIC

Chronic Ulcerative Paradental Stomatitis (CUPS) is a syndrome in dogs characterized by an extreme reaction to dental plaque. Plaque is a whitish bacterial film that accumulates on the crowns of the teeth. Although this disease is still not completely understood, CUPS is likely a hyper stimulation of the immune system by the bacteria in plaque.

The clinical manifestations of this disease include ulceration of the tongue and cheeks where they contact plaque covered tooth surfaces ("kissing lesions"). A **foul odor** from the mouth, a severe, red inflammatory plaque response and **pain** secondary to the ulcerations are also typically evident. Usually, the patient becomes **lethargic** and has a **decreased appetite** due to the discomfort in their mouth.



Treatment of this condition relies on aggressive **DAILY PLAQUE CONTROL**. We will help to formulate an appropriate home dental care plan for your pet using a variety of products. *Frequent thorough dental cleanings* (typically every 3-9 months) are necessary to reduce plaque accumulation. Medically, CUPS patients may also be managed for a short time with oral antibiotics and anti-inflammatories. However, without manual daily plaque removal at home, CUPS patient's clinical signs and oral pain will continue to recur. In severe cases or with patients for whom daily plaque removal is not possible, extraction of all teeth is an alternative treatment. Without teeth present, plaque will not accumulate and continue to cause discomfort.