

Grading Canine Dental Condition



MINOR / GRADE 1

Soft plaque has built up on the surface of the teeth. A small amount of tartar is also present. Tartar was formed when mineral deposits from saliva precipitated in plaque. Bacteria have grown, multiplied and invaded the gum tissues around the tooth causing early gingivitis, and red, inflamed gums.



MODERATE / GRADE 2

Moderate tartar buildup is present. It has acted as a wedge, pushing the gums away from the teeth, causing food, bacteria, and debris to accumulate there. The gums are red, swollen, and painful and bleed when touched. At this stage, proper dental care is crucial to reverse the progress of dental disease.



MAJOR / GRADE 3

Plaque and tartar formation is heavy. Pockets of bacteria and debris have accumulated to form further pockets of infection along the teeth. The infection has destroyed tissues around the teeth that hold them in place, and some have become loose. The gums appear bright red and bleed freely.



SEVERE / Grade 4

Severe tartar formation and gum disease is present. Toxic debris and inflammation have caused extensive tissue death. Roots are infected, abscessed, and rotten. The thin wall of bone surrounding teeth has deteriorated, and many teeth are loose. Bacteria may be spreading through the entire body in the bloodstream, potentially causing harm to vital organs. Pain can also be severe at this stage.

