

Understanding Veterinary Dentistry

Fraser A. Hale, DVM, FAVD, Dipl. AVDC
Dental and oral surgery for pets

www.toothvet.ca

2004 edition

Acknowledgments

This book was prepared with the help of several references. The author wishes to acknowledge those who have relaxed their copyrights for us.

Smarten Up, Sharpen Up (out of print) published by Hu-Friedy Inc, 3232 North Rockwell Street, Chicago Illinois, 60618.

The *Journal of Veterinary Dentistry*.

The *Canadian Veterinary Journal*.

Forward

Done properly, veterinary dentistry provides a “Win-Win-Win” situation with benefits for the owner, the veterinary profession and, most importantly, our patients. However, it is an area in which most of us have received little formal training. To provide the level of dental care our clients demand and our patients deserve, we must train ourselves.

These notes evolved from handouts, newsletters and articles I have written over the years. They are intended to *introduce* a number of basic concepts and techniques central to veterinary dentistry. Almost every chapter in this book could be the subject of a textbook in its own right. For example, in the human dental literature, there are massive texts available on the subjects of periodontology, endodontics, pedodontics and even saliva chemistry. The reader is strongly encouraged to build on the foundation laid by this volume by attending veterinary and human dental continuing education and by reading the increasing library of veterinary dental texts and articles. This is a fascinating and rapidly growing area and one well worth the effort to learn well.

Within these pages, I will refer to some of the equipment, instruments and materials I use and prefer. In almost every instance, there will be other options that may be just as good or even better. Since I am most familiar with what I use, that is what I will tell you about. I have received no compensation from any manufacturer or distributor for these “plugs” and have no commercial affiliations.

Veterinary dentistry is an evolving discipline, as are all medical fields. Looking back, we often scoff at the naivety and ignorance of our predecessors. We may think we have “cutting edge” and “state of the art” knowledge and they were working in the dark ages. I often wonder what we think we know now that we will laugh at in twenty (or ten or five) years. The risk of putting ideas into print is that they remain there long after they have lost their validity. Therefore, it is imperative to keep up with the current literature. Readers are strongly encouraged to subscribe to the Journal of Veterinary Dentistry. Subscription information can be found in Appendix E, page 214.

In an effort to keep this book as current as possible, I self-publish it in small batches. The disadvantage is that high quality paper and printing techniques are prohibitively expensive for small print runs. Every effort has been made to maximize the quality of the images in these pages while still keeping the cost of production within reason.



