



Chronic Ulcerative Paradental Stomatitis (CUPS)

Chronic Ulcerative Paradental Stomatitis is a painful condition in dogs. Typically there are ulcers where the lips contact the teeth; these are called contact ulcers or “kissing lesions”. The most severe lesions are found in areas where the gums have receded. Owners often bring their dog in with complaint of excessive drooling that often appears thick & ropey. Severe halitosis (bad breath) and bleeding gums are also common complaints. Some dogs may flinch or cry when their muzzle is touched. Common breeds we see affected by CUPS are the Maltese, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Greyhounds are some of the more common breeds affected by CUPS.

CUPS is diagnosed based on the combination of clinical signs, full mouth intra-oral radiographs and a biopsy. Your doctor may want to rule out other diseases that can appear similar to CUPS such as; acute ulcerative stomatitis, uremia (kidney disease), and auto-immune diseases are just a few. Treatment can begin with a thorough prophylaxis including subgingival and supragingival ultrasonic scaling. Extraction of teeth with advanced periodontal disease and irrigation with an antimicrobial. Our goal with treatment will be immaculate plaque control and oral hygiene, also to reduce inflammation and immune response.

Home care for a CUPS patient will include plaque control measure of daily brushing, and CET oral rinse. Applying Oravet every other day and possibly giving an immune-suppressing medication like prednisone or azithioprine can help. Response to treatment may require monthly recheck examinations and complete blood counts, in addition to a prophylaxis every 6 months to control the plaque.

Control of CUPS requires a life-long commitment to plaque control. In advanced cases or in cases where the rigorous home care regiment will not be possible, full mouth extractions may be required. Dogs with no teeth once healed can eat and live normal lives. They can live pain free and comfortable.