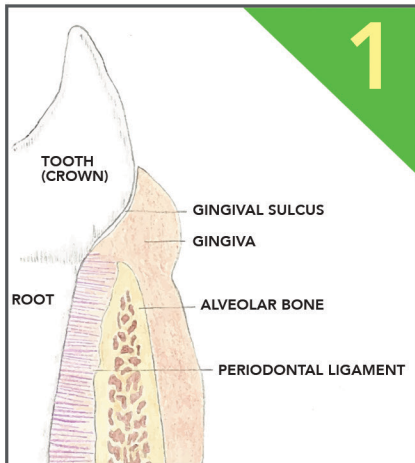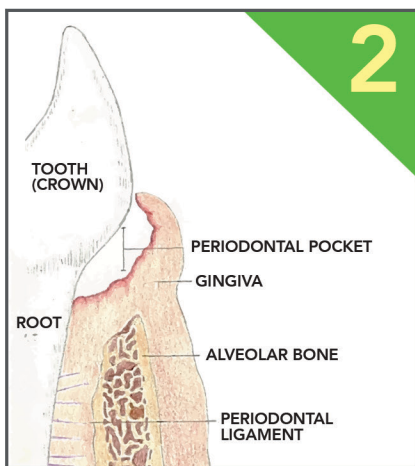# WHAT IS
PERIODONTAL DISEASE?

OraStripdx™
Thiol Test

Periodontal disease is an infection and inflammation of the structures that anchor the teeth in place, including the gums. These structures are called the periodontium, which is where the name for the disease comes from. Once a dog or cat gets periodontal disease, it never goes away and must be treated to prevent long-term damage. Unfortunately, many pet owners aren't aware of the disease and haven't heard that early treatment is important.

1

TOOTH (CROWN)
GINGIVAL SULCUS
GINGIVA
ROOT
ALVEOLAR BONE
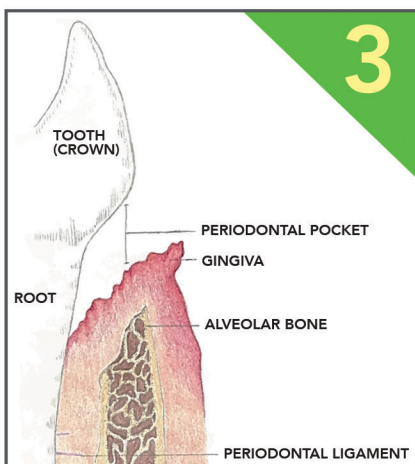PERIODONTAL LIGAMENT

1. Healthy

- The structures holding the tooth in place are intact.
- Most of these structures are beneath the gums (gingiva) and cannot be seen from the outside.
- The thin space between the tooth and the gum, called the gingival sulcus, is free from infection.

2

TOOTH (CROWN)
PERIODONTAL POCKET
GINGIVA
ROOT
ALVEOLAR BONE
PERIODONTAL LIGAMENT

2. Diseased (Hidden)

- Bacteria (not shown because they are too small to be seen) infect the gingival sulcus, which cannot be seen from the outside.
- The bacteria destroy the gums from the inside and turn what was a thin gingival sulcus into a large periodontal pocket—still not visible from the outside—where more and more bacteria build up.
- The bacterial build-up leaves a distinctive fingerprint—chemicals called thiols.

3

TOOTH (CROWN)
PERIODONTAL POCKET
GINGIVA
ROOT
ALVEOLAR BONE
PERIODONTAL LIGAMENT

3. Advanced Disease (Visible)

- The gums look inflamed (bright red and swollen) from the outside.
- The structures holding the tooth in place are destroyed, leading to tooth loss.
- The built-up bacteria spread to other parts of the body, including the heart, liver, and kidneys.

! **Unless treated, periodontal disease causes chronic discomfort and pain in dogs and cats.**

Unless treated, periodontal disease causes chronic discomfort and pain in dogs and cats.

How is periodontal disease treated?

When periodontal disease is detected early, its progress can be slowed by professional dental cleanings under anesthesia, along with consistent home care. If the disease progresses, more advanced treatments such as gum surgery and tooth extraction will be needed.

How do I know if my pet has periodontal disease?

Detecting periodontal disease in the early stage is difficult because the disease begins in the hidden space between the gum and the tooth. Pet owners are not able to see early disease, and without the right tool, veterinary teams are not able to detect it in the awake animal, either. In the past, periodontal disease has typically been found only after the disease has progressed, when the dog or cat is placed under general anesthesia and an oral examination is performed and x-rays are taken.

How does OraStripdx™ help diagnose periodontal disease?

OraStripdx™ detects thiols, which are produced by bacteria during periodontal infection. When administered to the awake dog or cat during a routine examination, the test detects active periodontal disease—even early in the progression of disease, when the infection is invisible beneath the gums. OraStripdx™ is easy to use, giving results in 10 seconds. The pad on the test strip is swiped along the gums. When thiols are present, the pad changes color from white to shades of yellow: more yellow color means more thiols are present. Any positive test result is significant, and higher levels of thiols generally reflect more severe periodontal disease.

My Pet's Name: _____

My Pet's Test Results:

NEGATIVE	POSITIVE
	+ ++ +++

____ Periodontal disease was **not detected** at this examination.

____ Periodontal disease was **not detected** at this examination. Other problems exist that require a professional cleaning.
They are (circle):
broken teeth   oral masses   tartar
other:_____

____ My pet's OraStripdx™ test result is **positive**. Thiols associated with periodontal disease have been detected at this examination.
My pet should receive a professional cleaning within the next (circle):
As soon as possible   1 mo   2 mo   3 mo

____ My pet's OraStripdx™ test result was **positive**. Thiols associated with periodontal disease have been detected at this examination, as well as other problems.
They are (circle):
broken teeth   oral masses   tartar
other:_____
My pet should receive a professional cleaning within the next (circle):
As soon as possible   1 mo   2 mo   3 mo

OraStripdx™ Thiol Test