

## FOCUS Open Wide & Say “Meow”

Thorough oral examination (OE) in the cat should include 4 stages. The first involves reviewing current oral problems and clinical signs with the client and taking a complete history. The second stage is a complete physical and extraoral examination in an awake patient. All body systems should be assessed to help rule in or out systemic illness that could contribute to oral disease, and it is important to auscultate the heart, palpate the abdomen, evaluate for head and face symmetry, palpate the face and salivary glands, check for halitosis, and assess temporomandibular joint function. The third stage involves oral cavity examination, also in an awake patient, which may prove difficult depending on patient temperament and degree of oral pain. During this stage, occlusion should be checked, the teeth counted, and a general overview

of oral pathology (eg, fractures, gingivitis, abnormal swellings) ascertained. Examination under anesthesia, the fourth stage, provides a more in-depth view of intraoral structures. A dental probe should be used to determine gingival pockets, and dental radiographs should be taken. Any tissue swelling or inflammation should be biopsied. Everything noted should be documented in the medical chart.

### Commentary

Having a systematic approach to feline OE is important; progressing from clinical history, to a conscious evaluation of the entire patient, followed by conscious evaluation of the oral cavity, and finally to anesthetized oral examination is necessary. Paying particular attention to cues regarding patient grooming, intraoral anatomic variation between cats and

dogs, and common presentations for different stages of tooth resorption and periodontal disease all help to provide greater insight into oral conditions affecting cats. Using this information to help educate clients as to the importance of diagnostics and treatment is the first step toward improving patient quality of life. This *JFMS* article, and the entire special issue on feline dentistry, is a thorough resource that helps elevate the level of feline dentistry in many practices and aids in answering many common questions.—*Christopher J. Snyder, DVM, DAVDC*

### Source

Oral examination in the cat: A systematic approach. Clarke DE, Caiafa A. *J FELINE MED SURG* 16:873-886, 2014.

**“There was no difference between clinical or microbial cure rates in the short- or long-term groups.”**



In this trial, 38 dogs with uncomplicated bacterial cystitis were treated with either cephalexin 20 mg/kg PO q12h for 10 days ( $n = 18$ ) or trimethoprim sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX) 15 mg/kg PO q12h for 3 days ( $n = 20$ ), followed by a placebo for the remaining 7 days. Dogs were reevaluated for clinical and microbiological outcomes on days 7, 14 (short-duration), and 42 (long-duration). Improvement or resolution of clinical signs on day 3 did not differ between the 2 groups. In addition, there was no difference between clinical or microbial cure rates in the short-term or the long-term groups.

### Global Commentary

The advantages of short-duration antimicrobial treatment of suspected uncomplicated bacterial cystitis include lower cost and potentially better client compliance with fewer adverse effects and lower antimicrobial resistance. This is the second prospective clinical trial to demonstrate similar clinical and microbiologic cure rates when comparing short and longer duration empiric antimicrobial treatment for uncomplicated UTI without adverse effects.<sup>1</sup> These 2 short-duration protocols are exciting and promising; however, further studies are needed to compare the efficacy of short-duration treatment with high-dose enrofloxacin versus TMP-SMX and to examine the impact these treatment regimens may have on the selection of resistant bacteria.—*Gregory F. Grauer, DVM, MS, DACVIM*

### Source

Short- and long-terms cure rates of short-duration trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole treatment in female dogs with uncomplicated cystitis. Clare S, Hartmann FA, Jooss M, et al. *J VET INTERN MED* 28:818-826, 2014.

1. Evaluation of the efficacy and safety of high dose short duration enrofloxacin treatment regimen for uncomplicated urinary tract infections in dogs. Westropp JL, Sykes JE, Irom S, et al. *J VET INTERN MED* 26:506-512, 2012.

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