

## Bearded Dragon Periodontal Disease

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Periodontal disease including tartar and gingivitis is seen increasingly commonly in bearded dragons and other lizards with similar dentition (chameleons, Chinese water dragons, uromastyx, other agamids). The exact cause of periodontal disease is not entirely clear, but there is suspicion that there is a genetic and/or dietary component. Perhaps captive lizards are being fed more soft foods than their wild counterparts allowing tartar to build up easier. In the wild they eat more hard bodied insects and a variety of coarse vegetation.



### Grade 1 Periodontal Disease

At this stage there is minor brown discoloration of the teeth. Brushing the teeth 1-2 times a week should be started.



### Grade 2 Periodontal Disease

Brown discoloration affecting multiple teeth, mild yellow tartar buildup, or redness of the gums. Brushing teeth should be increased to every 1-2 days.



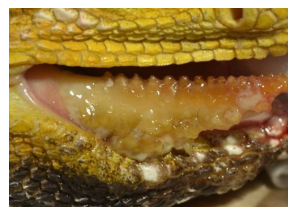
### Grade 3 Periodontal Disease

Moderate tartar buildup, gums may start to recede away from the teeth. Anesthetized dental cleaning needed in addition to brushing teeth.



### Grade 4 Periodontal Disease

Severe tartar buildup, gingival recession, +/- osteomyelitis (infection in the bones of the jaw). Anesthetized dental cleaning, brushing teeth, +/- antibiotics needed.



### Grade 5 Periodontal Disease

Osteomyelitis has progressed to causing parts of the jaw bone to die and break off. Severe infection requiring dental cleanings, bone debridement, life long antibiotic treatment or humane euthanasia.

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## How do you brush the teeth?

A q-tip soaked in dilute chlorhexidine solution or dilute povidone-iodine solution should be swabbed along the teeth/gums on both sides trying to get top and bottom jaws. Gently peel the lip down while the mouth is closed to see the teeth and sneak the q-tip in for brushing.

