



For Immediate Release:

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AAHA Dental Care Guidelines Mention Periodontal Diagnostic Test

2013 AAHA Dental Care Guidelines for Dogs and Cats Released

Lexington, Kentucky, March 7, 2012 – For the first time since 2005, the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) has issued new Dental Care Guidelines for Dogs and Cats. The Guidelines are published in the March 2013 edition of the *Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association*, and can be found online at https://www.aahanet.org/PublicDocuments/Dental_Guidelines.pdf.

The 2013 AAHA Dental Care Guidelines also include the first-time mention of a periodontal diagnostic test for use on an awake animal in the exam room. The Guidelines state that: “A diagnostic test strip for the measurement of dissolved thiol levels can be used as an exam room indicator of gingival health and periodontal status.¹⁴” The footnote references the study of OraStrip® QuickCheck Canine, conducted by Dr. Sandra Manfra Marretta at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, published in the *Canadian Veterinary Journal*, December 2012.

The Guidelines go on to recommend that, “...in many instances the examiner will underestimate the conditions present because it is impossible to visualize all oral structures when the patient is awake,” pointing to the need for diagnostic support in the exam room. Additionally, the Guidelines point out that, “Dental health care needs to be part of the preventive healthcare examination discussion and should begin at the first appointment at which the patient is seen and continue routinely throughout subsequent exams.”

Along with prevention, monitoring progress or status during follow-up evaluations are also recommended: “Evaluate disease status, such as periodontal disease, on the conscious patient with products that allow an assessment of periodontal health without placing the patient under anesthesia.¹⁴ During subsequent examinations, evaluate client compliance, revise the treatment plan as needed, and redefine the prognosis”.

The one diagnostic test that meets these new detection and monitoring guidelines is OraStrip® QuickCheck Canine, a diagnostic test strip for the measurement of dissolved thiol levels.

“These important new AAHA Dental Care Guidelines confirm that periodontal disease is often underdiagnosed because it is impossible to visualize all oral structures when the patient is awake,” said Dr. Brook Niemiec, DVM, DAVDC, President, Academy of Veterinary Dentistry. “The OraStrip test provides a critical tool for evaluating periodontal disease in conscious patients before the visual cues are established.”

“A periodontal diagnostic test strip may be used as an essential component of the detection and continuing evaluation of periodontal disease in the conscious patient as mentioned in the AAHA Dental Care Guidelines,” said Dr. Jan Bellows, DVM, DAVDC, DABVP, President, American Veterinary Dental College. “OraStrip offers the veterinarian the capability to communicate effectively with clients to ensure optimum compliance with recommendations for continuing dental care.”

About PDx BioTech

PDx BioTech is a privately held diagnostics company headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky. The company’s proprietary technology enables point-of-care diagnostic applications for the rapid detection and ongoing monitoring of oral health conditions. PDx BioTech’s vision is to develop and commercialize innovative biomedical technologies that improve overall health. The company’s first commercial entry is in the companion animal market segment. OraStrip® QuickCheck Canine is the first diagnostic for use by veterinary professionals in the detection and monitoring of active periodontal disease in dogs.

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