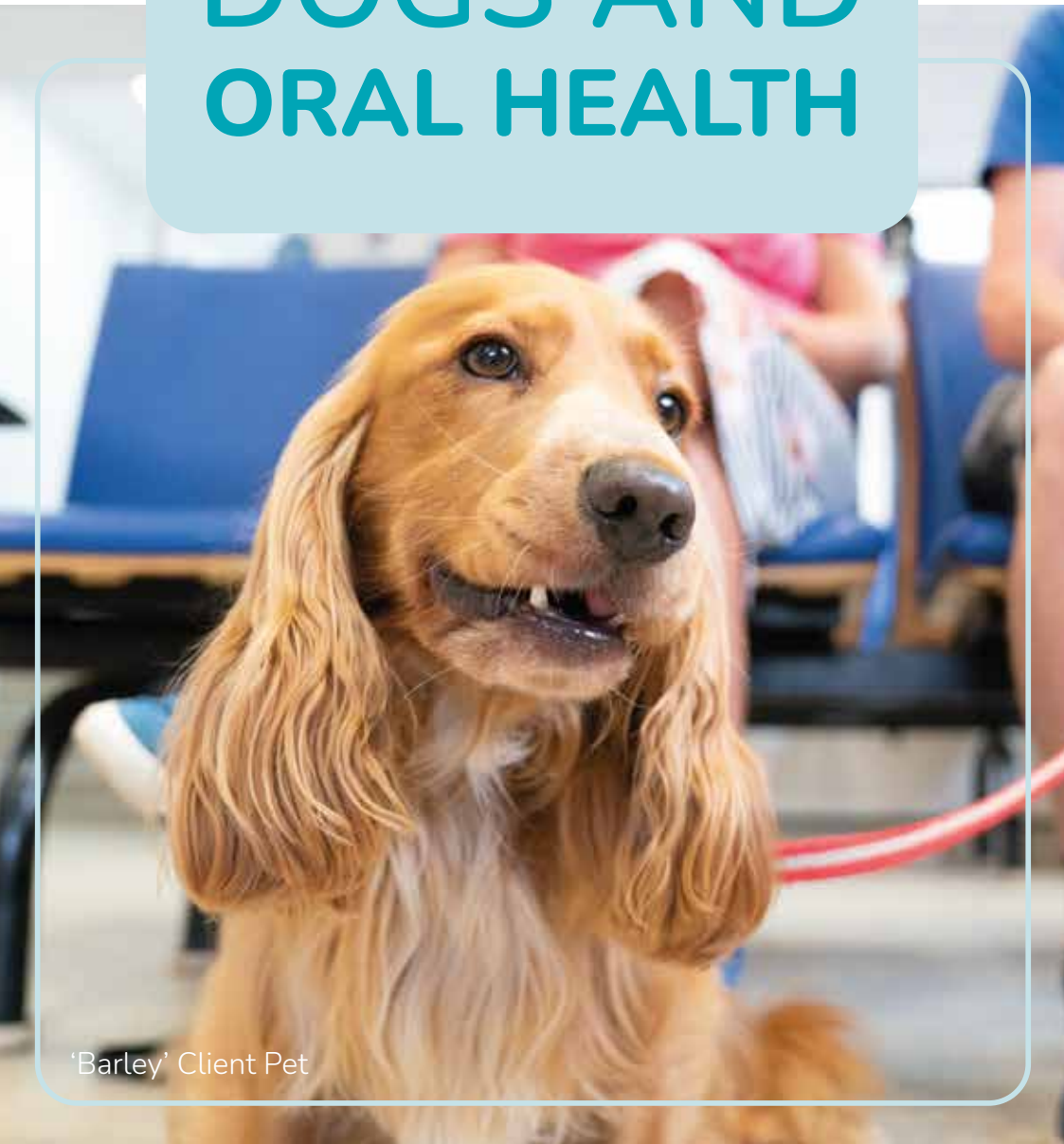




DOGS AND ORAL HEALTH

'Barley' Client Pet



■ Keeping your dog's teeth healthy

The reason we talk to our clients about dental health a lot is because it is preventable, and it has a massive impact on our dogs' lives. Here are some things to consider when looking after your dog's teeth.

■ What you should do

- * Most dogs accept having their teeth brushed, and doing so with a dog-specific toothbrush and toothpaste every day is the gold standard for dental hygiene. You can visit our website to talk to our team for tips on training with your dog to brush their teeth.
- * Other solutions such as dental diets and chews may help to keep plaque levels down, but they won't prevent dental disease. Similarly, you can purchase additives for water and other supplements which help to keep plaque softer for longer – but they won't remove the plaque or prevent disease.



■ What you shouldn't do

Bones or antlers can have an effect – but the honest truth is that they are not very effective. They may help your pet's teeth to look cleaner, but they're not stopping plaque, which is causing a greater risk to their oral health at the gum line and under the gums.

As well as this, bones and antlers do cause a risk of tooth fractures, which may necessitate the tooth to be removed – something that is unfortunately fairly common, especially with obsessive chewers.

Increasingly, we are becoming aware of people such as groomers offering anaesthetic-free dentals and scale and polishes. Ultimately, all this will achieve is making the surfaces you can see look cleaner, which may appear better but will not have any positive effect on a dog's health, as it isn't cleaning below the gum line.

As well as this, it isn't the kindest experience you can put your pet through. We do perform scale and polish under anaesthesia for a reason, and attempting to do so without anaesthesia will cause your pet undue stress – for no real benefit.



'Blaid' Stone

■ Worried about your pet's teeth? Join our **Pet Health Club** and get unlimited free vet visits!

We do things differently, and have been for over 125 years. We're the world's largest employee-owned vet group – something we're very proud of. Our **Pet Health Club** works differently, too.

We offer our members unlimited consults with our vets and nurses throughout the year as standard. We love our patients, and we believe in giving them the right care, in the right way and at the right time. We feel that the best way to do this is to empower you to bring them in to see us, or chat to us via a video consult, whenever you have a concern about their wellbeing.

That means if your pet is having problems with their dental health, you can bring them in to see us with no charge, and our lovely team will be happy to help you to work out what the problem is, and how best to solve it.

Sign up via our website, or speak to us in your local branch for more information.

