



# Chronic Ulcerative Parodontal Stomatitis (CUPS)

## What is CUPS?

Chronic Ulcerative Parodontal Stomatitis (CUPS) is a syndrome in dogs characterized by an extreme reaction to dental plaque. Plaque is a whitish bacterial film that accumulates on the crowns of the teeth. Although this disease is still not completely understood, CUPS is likely a hyper stimulation of the immune system by the bacteria in plaque.

## What are the symptoms of CUPS?

CUPS is common in certain breeds like Maltese, King Charles Spaniels, Miniature poodles and Greyhounds. The clinical manifestations of this disease include ulceration of the sides of the tongue and cheeks where they contact plaque covered tooth surfaces (“kissing lesions”). A foul odor from the mouth, severe inflammatory gingivitis, bleeding, and pain from the ulcerations are also typically evident. Usually, the patient becomes lethargic and has a decreased appetite due to the discomfort in their mouth.

## What are the treatment options?

This condition can usually be managed but will require lifelong therapy or total mouth extractions. The main goals when treating CUPS are to provide immaculate oral hygiene. Complete clinical resolution may only be possible with anti-inflammatory or immunosuppressive medications. The treatment plan will begin with a deep dental cleaning and full mouth radiographs. Any teeth that have periodontal disease will need to be extracted. Remaining teeth may have a waxy barrier, such as OraVet gel, applied to the teeth to inhibit plaque accumulation. Frequent and thorough professional

dental cleanings (typically every 3-9 months) are necessary to reduce plaque accumulation and remove plaque from below the gum line.

CUPS patients may also be managed for a short time with oral antibiotics and anti-inflammatory medication. Your dentist will determine which medications will best help your pet. However, without excellent home care, CUPS patient’s clinical signs and oral pain will continue to recur.

In severe cases or with patients for whom daily plaque removal is not possible, extraction of all teeth is an alternative treatment. Without teeth present, plaque will not accumulate and the ulcers will heal. Dogs can eat very well without any teeth and extraction of all teeth is typically curative.

If full mouth extractions are recommended, your dentist may elect to split the procedure into two or more episodes to decrease the amount of time your pet spends under anesthesia. After all the teeth have been extracted, some dogs may have their tongue hang out of their mouth.

## What home care will I be required to do?

If you elect to try medical management of CUPS, home care with daily teeth brushing, prescription dental diets, Healthy Mouth (an anti-plaque water additive), OraVet hygiene chews and weekly OraVet plaque barrier application can help to control this painful disease.

For some dogs, even with excellent home care, full mouth extractions may be necessary to achieve resolution of symptoms.

## Remember:

- CUPS is a chronic condition that requires lifelong patient monitoring
  - Excellent home care is essential to control CUPS
  - Full mouth extraction may be recommended