Comparison of treating early canine periodontal disease with closed root planing alone versus concurrent use of doxycycline hyclate gel or clindamycin hydrochloride hydrogel

Purpose of the Research Study
We are asking permission to enroll your pet in a clinical trial intended to assess the effectiveness of different available treatments for early stages of periodontal disease (gum disease).

Periodontal disease is the erosion of the support structures around a tooth (like the gums and facial or jaw bones) due to plaque. A dental probe is an instrument used to measure the depth of pockets between the gums and the teeth. In the dog, normal pockets measure less than 2 millimeters. If your pet is found to have early stage periodontal disease (a periodontal pocket depth of 3 to 5 millimeters deep), then we can enroll your pet into the study. The extent of the disease cannot be fully assessed until your pet is placed under general anesthesia and dental ultrasonic scaling and polishing, probing and oral radiographs (x-rays) are performed.

Description of Clinical Investigation
Once we determine that your pet has early periodontal disease, we will randomly assign them to one of three treatment groups. All of these treatments have been proven to improve early periodontal disease by decreasing the size of the pocket. It is not clear which treatment works best.

Group 1: Closed root planning.
This treatment consists of using a hand scaler to completely clean all of the plaque and tartar that is present in the periodontal pocket.

Group 2: Closed root planning and application of doxycycline hyclate gel (Doxirobe).
This treatment consists of using a hand scaler to completely clean all of the plaque and tartar that is present in the periodontal pocket, followed by placement of a small amount of an antibiotic gel called Doxirobe, which will slowly dissolve over 3-6 weeks.

Group 3: Closed root planning and use of clindamycin hydrochloride hydrogel (Clindoral).
This treatment consists of using a hand scaler to completely clean all of the plaque and tartar that is present in the periodontal pocket, followed by placement of a small amount of an antibiotic gel called Clindoral, which will slowly dissolve over 7-10 days.

You will be asked to return to the Animal Medical Center in 12 weeks in order to have your pet’s periodontal pocket depths rechecked. We will need to briefly sedate your pet at the recheck with a fast acting intravenous sedative. We will ask that you fast your pet that morning and leave them with us for a few hours to fully recover from the sedation.

For your participation in the study, you will not be charged for the root planning or local antibiotic treatment (a savings of $106.85) and you will be given a $150 compensation (allocated at the time of the recheck appointment).

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