UNC-CH IACUC Policy on Canine Dental Health

1. All dogs to be housed long-term at UNC (both adult and juvenile) will be placed on a dental schedule. Each dog will have its own dental prophylaxis form in which to chart pockets, caries, loose teeth, extractions, etc.

2. Each dog will be graded according to degree of gingivitis and the amount of dental calculus. The chart will be used as a guide to perform the evaluation. Dogs found with dental abnormalities will be examined/treated further.

3. Dogs determined to have a grade I gingivitis will be evaluated once yearly for need to clean teeth.

4. Dogs determined to have a grade II or higher level of gingivitis will have teeth cleaned, and then at six months, be re-evaluated for the need to have their teeth cleaned again.

5. Dogs with a Grade III or higher score will be evaluated by a veterinarian and an individual dental care plan will be described which may include antibiotics, a schedule of brushing, analgesics for extractions, etc. This plan will be reevaluated at six month intervals and revised as needed.

6. All dogs having a dental done will have their teeth scaled, polished and rinsed. Hand scaling may be performed to remove plaque in mild cases or in severe cases where there is concern for further damage to the tooth enamel. Dogs will be sedated and intubated for these procedures.

Dogs housed at UNC-CH for > 6 months may be included in this policy at the discretion of Department of Laboratory Animal Medicine (DLAM) veterinarian.