

# THE LANGUAGE OF DENTISTRY

Language is constantly evolving. Twenty years ago, the web was where the spider lived, google was a very large number (a 1 with 100 zeros after it) and spam was a disgusting canned mystery-meat. As veterinary dentistry has grown and evolved it has become important to get everyone using the same language and terminology to ensure accurate communication. Therefore, the American Veterinary Dental College has a Nomenclature Committee, whose mandate it is to establish proper terminology and abbreviations that all can use consistently. This is an ongoing process but one that is already well on the way.

The AVDC has made a lot of resources and nomenclature information available to all through their website ([www.avdc.org](http://www.avdc.org)).

At <http://www.avdc.org/dental-charts.pdf> you can find some examples of suitably detailed dental charts.

At <http://www.avdc.org/Nomenclature.html> you can find information, with drawings or photographs, on the various grading and staging conventions for plaque, calculus, gingivitis, periodontitis, occlusion, fractures, tooth resorption and more.

At <http://www.avdc.org/Nomenclature.pdf> you will find the definitions of the proper dental terms with respect to anatomy of the dental and craniofacial structures. There are also definitions of the various grades, stages and types of periodontal disease, tooth fracture, tooth resorption and so on.

At <http://www.avdc.org/abbreviations.pdf> you will find a list of the AVDC-approved abbreviations that can be used to record a lot of information in the small amount of space afforded on even the most detailed dental charts.

The three documents linked to above are all found on the <http://www.avdc.org/trainee-info.htm> page. Keep an eye on this page and the documents listed above as more information will be added as the committee continues to work through its task.