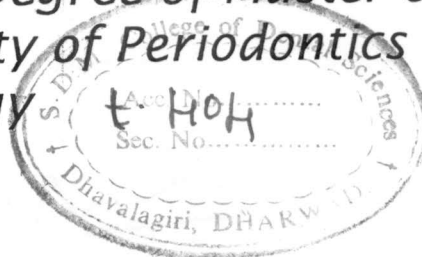


# ANIMAL MODELS IN PERIODONTAL RESEARCH



*Library Dissertation submitted to the  
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Dr. Rahul A. Patil

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*Department of Periodontics*

*S. D. M. College of Dental Sciences and Hospital,  
Dharwad*

To achieve an understanding of the life process and to further the human knowledge animals are experimented since long. Man as the experimenter is prepared to use animals in order to collect knowledge. This may be about the animals themselves, their physiology, their diseases and their treatment or behavior. It may be about the way they react to invasion, whether of chemical compounds or react to surgical procedures. Much of the knowledge is sought in the hope that it may be applicable to humans. The most rewarding surgery in recent years, pioneered in dogs, resulted from the investigation of the heart-lung machine by Gibbon in 1937 that made possible the open-heart surgery in humans.

In the field of Periodontics and Periodontology, the first report appears to be that of Talbott (1899), who described periodontitis in mongrel dogs. There are around 4500 mammalian species and over 9000 species of birds. For over hundred years periodontal diseases have been studied in many species and a wealth of dependable data about periodontitis in species other than man now exists.

For a long-time, periodontal diseases particularly the severe forms of periodontitis, have been and still enigmatic for both, to those who suffer from them and to those who try to understand and prevent them. Attempts to understand these diseases through clinical and experimental research have been made continuously and with varying success for more than a hundred years. When these efforts are viewed in a historical context, it is extremely gratifying, to today's extraordinary developments.