

Tips For Successful Brushing

MAKE YOUR PET'S DENTAL HEALTH PART OF YOUR ROUTINE



- Brush your pet's teeth at least two or three times per week. Start by brushing daily until you have developed a routine.
- Concentrate on the outside of the teeth. Tartar does not build up on the inside and your pet will not tolerate brushing the inside as well.
- Praise your pet frequently throughout the procedure and effusively after.
- If your pet tolerates only a brief brushing, do not be discouraged. Getting some toothpaste onto the teeth and gums is better than not brushing at all.

Brushing Alternatives

We do realize that not every pet will allow their teeth to be brushed. There are other products that can be used if brushing is not successful or a choice for your family.

- CET Hextra Chews - a coated treat that discourages tartar build up.
- CET Hextra Chews for Cats
- CET Water Additive - designed to be added to the drinking water daily to reduce tartar buildup.
- Science Diet T/D - a specially designed food that may be used as a sole food source, mixed with your pets regular diet or fed as a treat. This is what your pet receives as a treat here at the hospital. The food is designed to "brush" your pets teeth as they



Dental care at home.

chew.

Ask a staff member to see what would be best for your pet. Remember, just



Oral Care

Pet's Need Dental Care Too!



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*Dedicated to providing
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Pet's Have Teeth Too! Don't Forget to Flip the Lip

Oral disease is one of the most common and serious health problems in dogs and cats. Poor oral hygiene is not just a vanity issue for pets but a health issue.

About 85% of dogs and cats have some form of periodontal disease and are vulnerable to pain, bad breath, and tooth loss. When periodontal disease becomes chronic in our pets, infections can spread to the heart, liver, lungs, and kidneys where they can cause permanent damage.



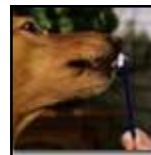
Proper oral care can help your pet reduce their risks of developing periodontal disease. You can help your pet by brushing their teeth daily to prevent tartar build up.

Left alone, tartar will develop into plaque which is a mixture of bacteria and food debris. If left untreated the bacteria can enter the blood stream affecting the heart, liver, lungs and kidneys. And it can be painful for your pet.

Brushing is Best

Brushing your pets teeth can be started at any age. Choose a time of the day that is quiet to begin this process.

- Approach your pet's mouth from the side. Start off by using your finger or a soft cloth to rub on your pet's teeth daily. Make this a positive experience and keep it brief initially.
- It may take several practice sessions before your pet becomes comfortable, so be patient.
- When your pet becomes comfortable with your fingers and the cloth in their mouth, try introducing the toothpaste. Make sure you use a toothpaste for pets only. We recommend the CET brand.
- After this has become a good experience, you may introduce the pet toothbrush. Only brush the outside of the teeth. The inside does not develop tartar.
- Brushing your pet's teeth will slowly become a part of your daily routine. With positive reinforcement, many pets look forward to this time.



For Cat Owners

These basic steps can also be used to brush your cat's teeth. However, remember that cats can be more sensitive to new things.

- Take each step slowly and allow your cat to become familiar with what you are doing.
- When using a toothbrush, use one that is designed for cats. It is much smaller.
- If your cat refuses to accept the toothbrush or finger brush, try using just the soft cloth wrapped around your finger with toothpaste on it.
- Often finding a time that your cat likes to sit on your lap is a good time to try. But don't force the issue. Patience is a virtue when it comes to our feline friends.

