



Routine Dental Home Care

Taking care of your pet's teeth on a regular basis provides many benefits for their health and comfort and it can delay the need for professional dental cleaning which minimizes anesthetic exposure to your pet.

Tooth Brushing

Daily brushing of the teeth with a soft-bristled toothbrush is the most effective way to keep your pet's teeth clean.



First, you should find a flavor of toothpaste that your pet will like. Put some on your finger, a treat or a toy and offer it to your pet. Your pet will begin to get used to the flavor and see it as a tasty reward. This will hopefully cause a positive response each time they see the tube of toothpaste.

Next, put a small amount of toothpaste on the toothbrush and let them lick it off. This allows them to get used to the feeling of the bristles on their tongue, gums and teeth. Although the brush may feel different, they will begin to realize it is nothing to be scared of.



Once your pet is comfortable licking the toothpaste off the brush without hesitation, try brushing their front teeth in a circular motion. Each day increase the number of teeth you brush as well as the amount of time you spend doing it.

{NAME} {PATIENTID} {FULLNAME} {ID}
{SPECIES} {BREED} {AGE} {SEX} {CURRENTWEIGHTUNITDATE[SHORT]}



When your pet is comfortable with the toothbrush, try brushing further back in a circular motion. Try to spend about 30 seconds on each side of the mouth.

Important Tips:

- Don't worry about brushing the inner surface of the teeth. Most pets won't allow it and its not worth turning it into a wrestling match.
- **DO NOT** use human toothpaste or baking soda. Human toothpaste can be harmful if swallowed and baking soda has a very high sodium content.
- Always make toothbrushing a positive experience for you and your pet.
- Put the toothpaste and brush in a place where you will see it everyday. This way you will be reminded to add it into your daily routine.
- **BE PATIENT.** In most cases, brushing teeth is a new experience. Not all pets will adjust at the same pace. It may take a few days or weeks.
- Do **NOT** give your pet toys or chews that are too hard. Follow this rule: "If you can not bend it, then you should not give it to them to chew on."
- There are many products currently on the market that promote dental health, but can lead to fractured teeth. Many fractures are caused by antlers and marrow bones. Another common enemy are tennis balls. The constant chewing on this abrasive surface causes the tooth's enamel to get worn down, leading to tooth sensitivity.

Dental Home Care Options

Toothpaste



Relies heavily on the mechanical action of brushing the teeth which should ideally be done twice daily.

{NAME} {PATIENTID} {FULLNAME} {ID}
{SPECIES} {BREED} {AGE} {SEX} {CURRENTWEIGHTUNITDATE[SHORT]}

Maxiguard Gel or Spray



Contains zinc, ascorbic acid and taurine for gingival health and can reduce odor. Easy to apply and should be done once to twice daily.

Dental Chews and Diets



Chews provide an abrasive surface that helps break up plaque and may also contain enzymes which can slow down the accumulation of plaque and tartar.

Diets provide a larger kibble that does not crumble easily, therefore allowing more contact time between the teeth and the food. These diets contain enzymes that help slow down the accumulation of plaque and tartar.

For More Information Please Visit:

Veterinary Partner for reliable, up-to-date animal health information at www.veterinarypartner.com

Veterinary Oral Health Council website: www.VOHC.org

The Virbac Dental website at www.CETUniversity.com

The American Veterinary Dental College website at www.AVDC.org



{CLINICNAME} {CLINICPHONE} {CURRENTDATE[SHORT]}