



Make Your Pet's Dental Health Part of your Routine

It's important and easier than you think!

How to Brush Your Pet's Teeth

While it is best to begin home dental care when the puppy or kitten is between 8 and 12 weeks of age, it is never too late! The daily brushing process should be pleasant for both you and your pet! Many pets enjoy the added attention while many owners look forward to the close quality time spent with their companion animal.

The supplies you need are a finger brush and CET pet toothpaste. Most animals will accept brushing very well if they are introduced to the procedure in a calm and patient way. The best way is as follows:

Day 1: Gently pet and scratch the muzzle, slowly lifting the lip for about 30 seconds. Reward with a treat at the end of the session.

Day 2: Repeat as above, except gently run your finger over your pet's teeth for 30-45 seconds. Reward and praise again.

Day 3: Repeat Day 2, adding 15 seconds time running your finger over your pet's teeth. Always reward with praise and a treat.

Day 4: If all is going well, insert your index finger into the finger brush, then gently insert into your pet's mouth and rub the teeth for about 30 seconds.

Day 5: Repeat as above and increase the time the finger brush is used by 30 seconds.

Day 6: Repeat as above, adding a small amount of the CET toothpaste to the finger brush and pass over the teeth.

Day 7: You know your pet best of all. If you feel he/she is accepting the brushing well, gradually increase the brushing time until you are able to spend at least one minute on each side.

If at any time your pet is resistant, stop and wait until the next day. If your pet is still resistant, contact our office and our technicians will be happy to assist you.

Helpful Hints

- Be patient. Take time with the process or else the pet may become resistant.
- Praise your pet. It's a new experience and praising your pet will make him or her more receptive
- Reward your pet with treats at the end of each session. Remember, always make it fun!
- Stop immediately if your pet shows any signs of aggression. Call the hospital for advice.
- Human toothpaste is for humans, not pets. It is common for human toothpaste to cause stomach problems and even vomiting.
- Brushing the teeth at home will decrease the frequency of professional dental care.
- Remember, always make it fun!

WARNING SIGNS OF POOR ORAL HEALTH

- Bad breath
- Gums are swollen and red
- Acts hungry, but is reluctant to eat
- Visible plaque and tartar on teeth
- Facial swelling
- Acts 'grouchy'
- Drops food out of mouth
- Rubs or paws at face
- Salivates or drools excessively
- Refuses to play with toys
- Reluctance to drink cold water
- Sneezes frequently or has nasal discharge

Comprehensive oral health assessments and thorough professional dental cleanings are recommended every 6-12 months based on your pet's individual condition.

Discuss the options available for your pet with your veterinarian today or call us at **704-817-9896**