



Brushing Your Pet's Teeth

Brushing the teeth is the most effective way to remove bacteria causing plaque.

Dental disease can affect cats and dogs regardless of breed, age or gender. It may cause bad breath, swollen, red or bleeding gums, difficulty chewing, excessive salivation, and eventually loose or infected teeth. Without daily brushing, bacteria continue to grow on the tooth's surface which starts the dental disease process. We can help prevent dental disease by providing an oral homecare regimen. We recommend brushing your pet's teeth daily and/or using an oral rinse. The enzymes and antibacterial agents within these products can help break down the bacteria that cause periodontal disease. Daily brushing of your pet's teeth (or at least a minimum of three times a week) is a proven means of preventing dental disease and tooth loss.

Steps to Follow...



1. **Day 1-3-** Choose a time each day to sit with your pet in a comfortable area. Begin by stroking your pet's cheek. Reward your pet after each training session with praise and a treat.
2. **Day 3-5-** Wrap a gauze or washcloth around your finger and apply light pressure to the outside of the teeth using a back and forth motion. Try this daily for 30-45 seconds. This will get your pet used to the texture against their teeth so you can introduce a toothbrush.
3. **Day 5-7-** Initiate the use of "pet-safe" enzymatic toothpaste (not human toothpaste). Introduce it as a treat off the tip of your finger. Do this a few times so your pet associates it as a treat.
4. **Day 7- You are ready to start brushing-** Introduce the toothpaste on a toothbrush and repeat step 2, starting with the front incisors and doing only the outside of the teeth. You do not need to open your pet's mouth, just lift the lip. Continue to reward your pet each time. If accepting, continue towards the back molars. If not accepting, do a little section of the mouth each day. Remember to reward after each session.
5. **The goal is to brush entire mouth daily.** An oral rinse may also be applied to gauze and wiped on the gums and teeth daily.