



Home Dental Care for Your Pet

Your pet's mouth may look beautiful and healthy following a routine dental cleaning but if the teeth are not cared for regularly with a home care routine, the mouth will return to a diseased state in 6 months or less.

Home care is just as important to your pet's overall health as the professional cleaning performed by your Veterinary Dental Technician!

Home Care Options:

1. **Brushing your pet's teeth** with pet toothpaste on a daily basis to remove plaque prevents the buildup of tartar. *Never use human products such as toothpaste or mouthwash as they can make your pet sick.*
2. **Tartar control treats** can be a helpful addition to a home dental care routine.
3. **Applying a rinse** on a daily basis after meals provides an antimicrobial defense against accumulation of plaque and calculus.
4. **C.E.T. Chews** are fun treats, which contain enzymes that break down plaque and tartar when your pet chews on them.
5. **Offering several of the Science Diet T/D kibbles** on a daily basis reduces accumulation of plaque, tartar, bad breath and oral disease by gently scrubbing the entire supragingival tooth surface.

The above products are available at our hospital.



Brushing your pet's teeth:

Why to brush: Brushing decreases the buildup of bacteria-laden plaque and will prevent or control dental disease.

What to use: You will need pet toothpaste and either a soft bristled toothbrush, a fingertip brush, or a gauze pad. We have a variety of toothbrushes and toothpaste in our retail area.

How: Introduce your pet gently to getting the teeth brushed. This can take time.

Follow the 3 steps below, and do not move on to the next step until you and your pet are fully comfortable with the current step.

3 steps – proceed slowly!

- Let your pet get used to having his muzzle handled. Gently stroke their gums and teeth with your fingers.
- Pet his muzzle with the toothbrush and let him taste the toothpaste. It's okay to let him chew on the bristles of the toothbrush.

- Brush your pet's teeth by gently placing a toothpaste-laden brush at a 45-degree angle to the gum-line. Gently brush the outside surface of each tooth. (Although all surfaces can collect plaque, the outside surfaces are the most important to brush.)

How often: Since plaque hardens into tartar within 24-48 hours, it is best to brush at least every other day. If it is done less often, tartar will accumulate and a Veterinary Dental Technician can only remove this substance during a professional cleaning.

The Benefits: The interval between professional cleanings will decrease with daily brushing. Your pet will have better breath and better overall health.

Tips:

CATS – to get your cat used to having a brush in her mouth, wet the brush with the water from a can of tuna and let her chew on it. When she gets used to this, you can switch to using pet toothpaste.

DOGS- Instead of tuna water, try using warm water and garlic salt!

Make brushing fun for your pet by using lots of praise! Rewards like treats and special toys are great too!

You can visit www.petdental.com for more information or call us at 215-598-9000
Indian Walk Veterinary Center, P.C.
662 Durham Rd. Newtown, PA 18940
www.indianwalkvet.com