

Pet Dental Home Care Guide

Daily Brushing

- Familiarize your pet with the toothpaste by placing a small amount on your finger and gently rubbing it on your pet's lips, gums, or teeth.
- To work up to using a toothbrush, put toothpaste on the bristles and allow your pet to lick it off. Brush in small intervals until you work up to a more thorough cleaning.
- You don't need to open your pet's mouth to brush their teeth — insert the brush between the lips while holding the mouth closed with your other hand and brush along the gum lines.
- It can be helpful to position yourself behind your pet and hold them still to brush their teeth.

Exams

- Preventative cleaning and evaluations are recommended at least every 1-2 years.
- Recheck exams are determined by your veterinarian on an individual basis, but are generally 3-6 months following the first visit.

Diet & Supplements

- Offer, at least in part, a kibble diet to help remove plaque, preferably a dental-health specific food.
- Give a daily oral chew, approved by the Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC). These should be chewed on for at least 5 minutes before ingested.
- Consider using a dental water additive with every water change.
- Do not give your dog hard chew toys such as antlers, horns, or bones which may fracture teeth.

Pet Dental DOs and DON'Ts



Do: Daily Brushing

Brush your pet's teeth daily with a soft-bristled toothbrush and pet toothpaste



Don't: Bones & Tennis Balls

Even nylon "bones" can fracture your dog's teeth and tennis ball fur is very abrasive



Do: Check the VOHC

The Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC) has a list of recommended products for pet dental health



Don't: Tolerate Bad Breath

Bad breath isn't normal and can be a sign of periodontal disease



Do: Regular Dental Visits

Schedule appointments for complete dental cleanings for your pet

