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