

ORAL HOME CARE

Why Oral Home Care?

Home care is the most important aspect of your pet's oral health. A healthy mouth improves the overall health and quality of a pet's life. It can extend the life span of your pet and can reduce the frequency of anesthesia and professional cleanings.

How Often?

Daily. Plaque, the sticky stuff that gathers on our teeth each night, collects on your pet's teeth each night too! Plaque can be removed or at least decreased with consistent, daily home care. If plaque is left for more than a day, it will begin to harden and develop into tartar. Tartar can only be removed with a professional cleaning.

When Should I Start?

The best time to start oral home care is when your pet is a puppy or kitten or after a professional cleaning.

What Do I Do?

Brush Your Pet's Teeth



This is one of the more challenging things to do, but is also the most effective. Do not use human toothpaste-it is not safe to swallow. We recommend CET Enzymatic Toothpaste that comes in pet friendly flavors like poultry, malt, and vanilla mint. CET toothbrushes have longer handles and are best shaped for your pet's mouth. Brush your pet's teeth daily. If you are just starting, go slowly. Begin by rubbing your pet's teeth and gums with your finger and work up to brushing over the course of several weeks to months. Give your pet a treat or fun reward afterwards. An excellent video demonstration can be found at: www.YouTube.com/user/KingsbrookVets

Dentacetic Wipes

These enzymatically treated pads can be used to gently rub your pet's teeth and gums. While not quite as effective as brushing, some pets will tolerate these wipes more readily and some people find them easier to use.



Oral Gels and Rinses



Maxiguard Oral Cleansing Gel and CET Oral Hygiene Rinse are used to prevent bacterial growth and inflammation of the gums. Veterinary dentists love these products for pets with periodontal disease. Apply a small amount with a fingertip along teeth and gums daily.

OraVet Plaque Prevention Gel

This sealant acts as a wax on the surface of the tooth to repel the attachment of plaque and tartar. It should be used at least once weekly.



Hill's Prescription Diet T/D



T/D kibble are large enough to require more chewing and contain ingredients and fiber that help to mechanically brush the teeth while your pet eats. When fed exclusively, prescription T/D food reduces plaque and tartar accumulation by over 60% compared to regular diets. And most pets love the taste!

Oral Chews

Greenies, and CET or Tartar Shield Raw Hide Chews are among the safest chews currently available for dogs. These can be used on a daily to weekly basis depending on your dog's interest and tolerance. Always give with careful supervision.



Other reputable products can be found on the Veterinary Oral Health Council's website at VOHC.org. VOHC evaluates products for efficacy & puts their seal of approval on products that really do benefit for your pet.