



Dental Hygiene Tips for Your Pet

Your pet's dental health can be influenced by many factors such as their genetics, diet, and hygiene measures taken by their owners. If you notice that your pet has bad breath, favors one side of his/her mouth while chewing, drops food, has red gums, salivates excessively, or paws at their mouth, then your pet may have periodontal (dental) disease. For most progressed cases of dental disease, a dental cleaning under anesthesia is warranted to remove the plaque and tartar build-up on your pet's teeth. But, there are things you can do at home for your pet to prevent or delay the need for a dental cleaning. Please see the dental hygiene tips listed below:

Dental Hygiene Tips:

- **Brushing your pet's teeth regularly with pet-approved toothpaste.**
 - Once daily brushing is recommended if your pet will tolerate it.
 - There are chicken and beef flavored pet toothpastes available.
 - Do NOT use human toothpastes. Ingredients in them can be toxic to dogs and cats.
 - Some pets are more amenable to a "finger" brush rather than a regular-sized toothbrush.
- **Using a dental water-additive**
 - Most dental water-additives are tasteless, odorless, and safe for both dogs and cats.
 - The purpose of a water-additive is to help rinse your pet's mouth, freshen their breath, and prevent plaque and tartar accumulation.
- **Providing your pet one dental treat per day**
 - There are several brands of dental treats available on the market today.
 - Many of these treats are designed to ward-off plaque and tartar and freshen breath.
 - Use caution with raw-hide chews; these chews can sometimes become lodged in your pet's gastrointestinal tract.
- **Placing your pet on a prescription dental diet**
 - Dental diets are clinically proven nutrition to reduce plaque, stain, and tartar buildup.
 - Examples include Hill's Prescription Diet t/d and Purina Pro Plan Veterinary Diets DH.
- **Purchase dental products that are approved by the Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC)**



- The VOHC reviews dental products and ensures that they are proven to improve the oral health of pets by slowing the accumulation of plaque and tartar build-up.
- Look for dental products with this seal of approval:



Please let us know if you have any questions about your pet's oral health!

*If you are interested in purchasing VOHC dental products for your pet, please visit our clinic or online pharmacy at: <https://elyvetcarepllc.securevetsource.com/index.pml>