

## DENTAL CARE TIPS FOR YOUR DOG

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Dental care is becoming one of the most relevant health issues of dogs. In fact, 80% of dogs show signs of oral and dental disease by the age of three. Oral disease is the cause of the majority of all pet illnesses, impacting heart, liver, kidney and intestinal problems. Though dogs rarely get cavities, the formation of plaque and tartar can cause gingivitis and periodontal disease, causing bleeding gums and tooth loss. The bacteria that causes all this also travels through the bloodstream, eventually damaging major organs.



### DIET

What your pet eats affects his smile. Feed a diet of dry food. Dry dog food (kibble) is abrasive, helping to keep the teeth clean. In addition, the crunchy texture stimulates the gums to prevent gum disease. Most small breeds are more prone to dental issues. Talk to your veterinarian about the proper diet that should be fed to your furry friend, some might need a prescription dry food especially formulated to remove and prevent plaque buildup.

### TREATS & TOYS

Offering your dog dental treats and toys not only helps satisfy your pet's chewing needs, they also massage his gums, scrape away plaque and help freshen breath. Greenies, CET rawhide chews, Nylabones, rope toys and hard biscuit treats are just some of the safe and effective dental aids you can offer your pet

### BRUSHING

Brushing your dog's teeth daily is the #1 way to improve your dog's breath and remove plaque. Starting home dental efforts is easiest when your pet is a puppy. Start brushing gradually and make it a pleasant experience. Special dog toothbrushes and flavored toothpaste will help make it a better experience for both you and your dog. Drinking water additives and oral rinses are safe and convenient new methods to prevent and control dental problems in dogs.

### DENTAL EXAMS

Annual veterinary visits are important for dog of all ages. Talk to your veterinarian about any mouth odors, pain, or other signs of dental problems you may have observed. Professional cleaning may be needed if there is a buildup of plaque or tartar.

Good dental habits will keep your pet's mouth healthy... and help them live longer, happier lives.