



Brushing Your Dog's Teeth

Dogs need to have their teeth brushed in order to eliminate the dental plaque that can cause tooth decay and the formation of tartar, which can lead to gum disease. You simply need to introduce the activity *gradually* and make the experience a positive one for your dog. Reassure and praise profusely throughout the process and reward with a very special treat when it's finished. Here's how it can be done:

Number one, this should be fun for you and your dog. Be upbeat and take things slowly. Do not overly restrain your dog. Keep sessions short and positive. Be sure to praise your dog throughout the process.

Give yourself a pat on the back, too! You are doing a great thing for your dog!

Step 1



First, let your dog smell the toothpaste. It is important to use only pet toothpaste, as human toothpaste is not meant to be swallowed and will upset your dog's stomach. Put some of the paste on your finger and let your dog lick it off. Praise your dog when he licks the paste and give a reward. If your dog does not like the taste of the toothpaste, you may need to try a different flavor. Continue this step until your dog looks forward to licking the paste.

Step 2



Put a small amount of the toothpaste on the dog's toothbrush and let them lick it off. This way they will get a feel of the bristles in their mouth. Again, praise your dog when he licks the paste and give a really great treat or other reward. Continue this step until your dog readily licks the paste off of the brush.

Step 3



The next step is to start brushing! At first, you may just want to brush one or both upper canine teeth. As this becomes tolerable, move up to brushing each area of the mouth.

Remember, you never need to brush the inside surface of your dog's teeth.

Talk to your dog in a happy voice during the process and always end on a good note—give a tasty treat or other great reward (favorite toy, lots of pets, etc.)

DO NOT CHEW!

These items can potentially damage your pet's teeth if they chew on them:

- Cow/Horse hooves or Antlers
- Toys with strings or pieces that can break off.
- Ice cubes
- Nylon-type bones (E.G. Nylabones)
- Animal bones
- Rocks, cages, fences, etc.

A good rule of thumb is, you should be able to bend the chew toy. If it bends it is soft enough for your pets to chew on.

PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO CALL US REGARDING YOUR PET'S DENTAL HEALTH.



515-964-PETS