

Pet Dental Health

Why is dental health so important?

- Dental health contributes to the health of the whole animal
- Animals with poor dental health can have bad breath, undesirable behaviour, and develop diseases in other areas of their body

Do both dogs and cats need dental care?

- Dogs, cats, and any other animal with teeth needs to have dental care to stay healthy and happy

The importance of dental health

"By the time your pet is 3 years old, he or she will very likely have some early evidence of periodontal (gum) disease" - AVMA



Dental health: Vet role

- At an annual visit, your veterinarian will look in your pet's mouth
- Assess plaque, tartar, and gingivitis
- Assess number of teeth - any missing? Any extra?
- Any broken teeth?
- Treatment or management needed to restore and maintain dental health (home care, cleaning, extractions)

Dental health: At home

- Look in your pet's mouth several times a week to look for changes in teeth and gums
- Tooth brushing: daily or at least 3x/week
- Soft bristle tooth brush and pet toothpaste
- Dental chews and diets

Dental health risks:

- Bones - can break teeth, can be swallowed and cause problems in the mouth, stomach or intestines
- human toothpaste (avoid fluoride and xylitol)

Look for:

- VOHC seal on dental treats, chews and food (proven to benefit dental health)
- pet friendly toothpaste



Tooth Brushing Tips:

- get pets used to you touching their mouth from a young age
- use a reward such as a treat or tasty dog toothpaste
- start with short sessions or a few teeth at a time
- Feed VOHC stamped dental chews as a treat