

## DO'S AND DON'TS OF HOME DENTAL CARE:

- PLEASE DON'T PERFORM HOME DENTAL CARE DURING THE FIRST 2 WEEKS AFTER A FULL DENTISTRY IN THE HOSPITAL AS YOUR PET'S GUMS MAY BE TENDER.
- Please don't start homecare if your veterinarian has advised you, your pet's teeth/mouth is sore.
- Use a pet toothbrush or soft cloth and only brush/wash a few teeth gently to start. Build up slowly. Don't expect your pet to love this the first time you try. Consider toothpastes to add flavor once they get used to the object in their mouth.
- Don't attempt to clean the inner surface of your pet's teeth. Most of the tartar accumulates on the outer surfaces of the teeth.
- Try to make dental care part of your pet's daily routine.
- Please don't let your dog chew on cow hoof or real bones. These are so hard they may break your pet's teeth.
- PLEASE DON'T CONSIDER HOME DENTAL CARE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO FULL DENTAL CLEANING IF YOUR PET HAS MORE ADVANCED DENTAL DISEASE.



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## Dental Homecare

**A scale and polish is the perfect start to keeping your pet's teeth healthy, but it is not enough on it's own.**

**Your pet's dental health is reliant upon ongoing homecare too.**



**For better breath and a healthy mouth**

# Dental care for your pet



## Frequently asked questions:

- **Wild animals don't have dental work or tooth brushing, why does mine need it?**

Plaque and tartar builds up on your pet's teeth just like ours. Stray animals develop tartar exactly the same. Their tartar builds up, cavities and tooth root infections develop. Eventually the tooth breaks or falls out. Unfortunately, the animal goes through a lot of pain before the tooth falls out.

Animals have the same nerves as we do in our mouths—so if something hurts us, it will hurt our cats and dogs too. Dental procedures are easily performed and we can maintain our animals pain free. Our aim is to prevent our pets experiencing dental pain. After all, why suffer from pain if you don't have to.

- **Why does my pet need another dental scale and polish?**

A scale and polish procedure removes all of the plaque and tartar at the time the dental procedure is performed.

It will not prevent new plaque and tartar building up. We rely upon homecare to slow the tartar build up to extend the interval between scale and polish, thereby saving you money and reducing the number of anaesthetics your pet has during its lifetime.

## What kind of home care is available?

### THE TOOTHBRUSH AND PASTE KIT:

Just as with your own teeth, **nothing beats brushing**. The fibres of the toothbrush are able to reach between teeth and under gums to pick out the tiny deposits of food. The shape of the canine and feline brushes is designed to the shape of a pet's mouth. You can start with a soft cloth or even your finger when getting your pet used to it. You will need to train your pet to accept this, but why not use pet toothpaste to make it flavoured and more fun!

*DO NOT USE HUMAN TOOTHPASTE ON YOUR PET.* The fluoride in toothpaste for people is not designed to be swallowed, and most pets will not tolerate mint flavours. Pet toothpaste comes in a poultry or malt flavour, which is palatable to most pets.



### THERAPEUTIC DIET:

Realising the difficulties involved in home dental care, therapeutic diets have been created to help remove plaque and tartar from the teeth. If you would like most of the benefits of performing home dental care without actually having to schedule time, this may be a viable option for you.



### DENTAL TREATS:

Some cats and dogs will not allow anyone to reach into their mouths for any reason and will not tolerate brushing, or any other home care. For these animals dental treats, such as VeggieDents or Greenies, represent an alternative method of home dental care. We recommend a treat daily for routine home care.

