

# Dental Care for Pets

**Dental diets are an effective way to help prevent plaque and tartar accumulation in pets.** The shape, size and texture of the kibble encourages more chewing action by the pet and work somewhat like a "squeegee" to scrape the surface of the tooth clean. Some diets also contain Tartar Reducing Agents which help prevent plaque from forming into tartar.

**We recommend Hill's T/d or Royal Canin Dental diets and treats to help prevent plaque and tartar accumulation in healthy adult dogs and cats.** These diets are extensively researched, clinically proven and guaranteed - if your pet won't eat it, you can return it for a full refund.

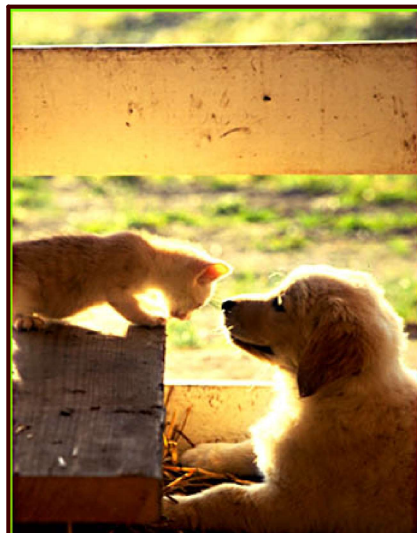
**Dental care is an important part of your pet's overall health care!**

Appropriate **chew toys** such as "Dental Kongs" (available at most pet stores) can be helpful but be careful not to give your pet anything too hard. They can actually chip or break teeth with overzealous chewing. Avoid real bones as they can cause broken teeth, can splinter, be swallowed and they can be a source for significant bacterial infections.

We carry a raw-hide chew treat called **Denta Pro Dental Chews** that not only encourages good chewing but are coated with an enzyme that will help prevent tartar formation.

**Brushing is an effective way to prevent plaque and tartar from accumulating.**

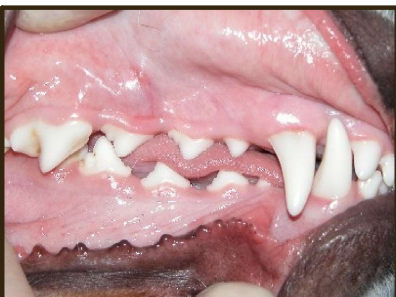
Use **pet toothpaste** and a **pet toothbrush**. Human tooth paste foams and is not designed to be swallowed; most pets don't know enough to "spit". There are many different models of pet toothbrushes available, you might have to try a few to find what works best for you. Start brushing early in your pet's life before plaque and tartar have a chance to accumulate. Aim to brush everyday but even twice a week will make a significant difference.



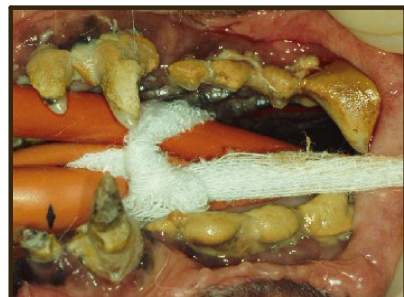
Puppies and kittens have deciduous or baby teeth that start to fall out around four months of age. By six months of age they will have their full set of adult teeth.

"Home Care" ideas are great ways to prevent or significantly reduce plaque and tartar accumulation, however they will not remove existing tartar or treat established gingivitis and periodontal disease. The only way to effectively treat *established* dental disease is with a professional cleaning of the teeth under general anesthesia. Some pets may require additional treatment such as a root canal or extractions. Your pet's annual physical examination includes an assessment of oral and dental health and recommendations for appropriate treatment.

Without intervention, the majority of pets will accumulate plaque (a sticky, yellowish substance made up of bacteria and food debris) on the teeth. Plaque hardens into tartar which is followed by gingivitis, an inflammation of the gums. Left untreated this will progress to periodontal disease or a loss of the bony structures around the tooth.



Not only is dental disease associated with bad breath and tooth loss, it can be a significant source of pain and infection for your pet. Bacteria associated with dental disease can travel elsewhere in the body through the bloodstream and can cause life threatening infections in organs such as the heart and kidneys.



**Remember to "Flip the Lip" of your pet on a regular basis!**