



## HOW TO BRUSH YOUR PET'S TEETH

Your pet's teeth are an important part of their overall health care. At-home dental care will help to keep your pet healthy and will decrease the need for costly dental cleanings.

### 1. Make it part of your pet's training.

Just like teaching your pet to sit and stay, you can also teach them to allow you to brush their teeth. Start brushing early, 8-12 weeks is best. Make a part of your daily routine using pet specific toothpaste with a toothbrush or finger brush. Reward your pet with praise or a treat for a job well done!

### 2. Set out with patience!

Getting your pet familiar with a very unfamiliar process is going to take time. While some pets readily accept and may even enjoy tooth brushing, others will be resistant. Begin by touching your pet's muzzle area. Touch the mouth and lips; gently rub your finger across the teeth and gums. Using flavored pet toothpaste, broth, tuna or clam juice on your finger will help your pet view these sessions as favorable.

### 3. Start with a washcloth, rag, or gauze instead of a tooth brush.

Wrap the cloth or gauze around your finger and gently rub the teeth. Add a few drops of broth, tuna or clam juice to the cloth to make the experience pleasant for your pet.

### 4. Tooth brush time!

Once your pet is used to your new daily routine, it's time to add in the tooth brush. Finger brushes, pet-specific tooth brushes and soft-bristled human tooth brushes may be used. Apply a pea-sized amount of pet toothpaste to the brush (human toothpastes aren't meant to be swallowed and can make your pet ill). Hold the brush at a 45-degree angle to the tooth and gently brush in a circular motion from the gum to the tip of the tooth. The outer surfaces of the teeth (the check side) are most important, followed by the chewing surfaces and tongue side of the teeth. Be sure to praise and reward your pet!



Buddy

For additional information on dental care, visit our website at

[www.CPVH.com/Dental](http://www.CPVH.com/Dental)

A Full Service Veterinary Hospital for Small Animals & Some Exotics

281.997.1426 - mail@cpvh.com - www.CPVH.com

MON  
7:30AM - 6:00PM  
TUE  
7:30AM - 7:00PM

WED  
7:30AM - 6:00PM  
THU  
7:30AM - 6:00PM

FRI  
7:30AM - 6:00PM  
SAT  
8:00AM - 1:00PM

#### 5. Remember brushing is best, but not the only choice.

Brushing your pet's teeth may not be an option for every pet. If brushing proves to be unsuccessful, there are many other dental health products available. From water additives to dental chews, there is an option for nearly every pet. Some are pictured below. Please ask your veterinarian about which option would be best for your pet's needs.

#### 6. Remember pets aren't people!

There are many dental products available for people that must never be used on pets. Human toothpaste is not meant to be swallowed and can be harmful to your pet. Hydrogen peroxide can be too harsh for your pet's gums and shouldn't be swallowed either. Baking soda has a high sodium content and should be avoided in older pets. When in doubt, give us a call. We're here to help!



Toothbrush

#### C.E.T. Chews



Aquadent

Links to Social Media Sites Can Be Found On Our Website  
[www.CPVH.com/Social](http://www.CPVH.com/Social)

