

Dental Care

Periodontal and gum disease, caused by the buildup of plaque and tartar has become the number #1 health problem in dogs and cats. It is estimated that without proper dental care 80% of dogs and 70% of cats will show signs of oral disease by age three. To keep you pet from becoming a part of these statistics, you simply need to provide them with a few things:

1. A nutritious diet
 2. Treats and toys that aid dental health
 3. Home dental care
- And 4. Yearly dental check-ups by your pet's veterinarian

Diet:

1. Feeding your cat or dog a dry food rather than a moist canned one will, through its mild abrasive action on the teeth, help remove the bacterial plaque that can harden into tartar. Dry food also provides adequate chewing exercise and gum stimulation.

2. Avoid giving your pet sweets and table scraps as they may increase plaque and tartar formation. Chewing on hard materials such as bones and stones can wear down; even break teeth, and damage gums. Wood or hard plastic can cause splinters which when imbedded can lead to infection.

Home Dental Care:

1. Brushing your pet's teeth is the best way to prevent dental tartar and disease. Daily brushing is ideal, as it is for our teeth. We carry different flavors of toothpaste and Finger brushes to help customize your pet's dental care. Toothpastes for humans are not good to use, as pets do not "spit out" and will swallow too much which could lead to stomach upset. Special dog/cat toothpaste not only tastes better to the pet, it is safer when swallowed. If a toothbrush doesn't work for you, you can also use moist gauze with toothpaste. Wrap the gauze around your finger and rub the outside of the teeth as though you were using a brush.

2. **Oral Hygiene Rinse** is available for dogs and cats. The rinse is meant to be used once daily when brushing is not an option. The rinse works because it contains Zinc Chlorhexidine, an anti-plaque compound. You simply put one squirt on each side of your pet's mouth and the pet will swish it around on its own and do the work for you.

3. **Dental treats** for dogs and cats are a yummy and easy way to help keep your pet's teeth clean on a daily basis. Dental treats help remove plaque and tartar. Used once daily, these products help to keep your pet's teeth nice and clean.

4. **Dental Diets** are formulated to both physically and enzymatically remove plaque [similar to the chews/treats]. These diets are well-balanced and safe to use as a maintenance diet.

Yearly Dental Check-ups are a must in providing optimum dental care. A thorough examination of the entire oral cavity will determine whether there are any underlying problems to be concerned about. Left untreated dental disease can cause infection which can enter the blood stream, damage other vital organs and shorten your pet's life.

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