

# Dental Care

Dogs and cats should receive professional dental care by the age of two or three. Professional cleanings including examination, scaling and polishing will vary on the rate at which calculus forms on your pet's teeth. To minimize professional cleaning, a good home dental care program is recommended.

First, one should offer a high quality dry dog food. Dry foods are abrasive and help to keep the teeth clean. If canned food is offered, it is best to mix both dry and canned.

It is important to brush your pet's teeth and gums at least 3 days per week, although if you could incorporate brushing your pets' teeth into your daily routine, it would be best. It is best to start the program when the dog or cat is young. The teeth and gums are healthy and it allows the pet to get used to the procedure. If periodontal disease develops, one should brush the teeth every day. The toothpaste should be formulated for dogs and cats. C.E.T Dentrifrice for Dogs and Cats is most recommended by veterinarians. It is available in malt, poultry, beef and mint flavors, and is available in complete C.E.T. Toothbrush Kits for cats and dogs which include a dual ended toothbrush and a finger brush, specially designed for pets. Human toothpaste should not be used as the foaming action is undesirable to pets. To get the pet used to this procedure, at first, it is best to massage their gums with only your finger. Treat the procedure as fun and the pet will less likely struggle. Once the pet relaxes and enjoys the procedure, it is time to introduce the toothbrush and dentrifrice.

Lift the gums gently to expose the outside surface of the teeth and introduce the toothbrush at about a 45 degree angle. Gently brush the teeth in small circular motions overlapping both the teeth and gums. It is not necessary to open the mouth as the tongue naturally helps keep the inside of the teeth relatively calculus free. The toothpaste is safe for

your pet to swallow.

Following brushing, using an oral rinse, such as C.E.T. Hexarinse, provides your pet with clean, fresh breath and soothes any minor gum irritations. It is refreshing, palatable and is alcohol free. Just lightly squirt the oral rinse into the mouth across the surface of the teeth and gums, or put a small amount directly in your pet's drinking water.

Do not offer treats that are harder than your pet's teeth. Any kind of bones, pigs ears, cow hooves, and rawhide can cause damage to teeth and potentially cause serious internal injuries which could lead to expensive veterinary costs. For dogs, high quality tartar control bones and specially designed dental toys with grooves and raised dimples, such as Kong Toys, Nylabones and Gumabones, do a much better job without the risk.

There is a rawhide chew that is safe and is also a very effective dentrifice. C.E.T. Chews for Dogs are enzymatically treated rawhide chews which break down plaque and provide natural abrasive action. The enzyme and formulation also aid in their digestion which helps eliminate any risk. Cats should never be left out. C.E.T. Chews for cats are enzymatically treated fish chews that helps break down plaque and also provides natural abrasive action.

C.E.T. products are available through your veterinarian.

Home dental care can definitely reduce professional cleanings, but yearly examinations by your vet are recommended. The veterinarian can determine if there are any other dental problems. If any treatment is necessary, they can suggest the proper treatment and care.