

How to Brush Your Cat's Teeth

Be upbeat, and take things slowly when introducing your cat to having his teeth brushed. Do not overly restrain your cat. Keep sessions short and positive. Be sure to praise your cat through the process. If your cat responds to treats, give them throughout the experience.

Step 1:

Hold your cat in your lap and get comfortable. You may even want to gently wrap your cat in a towel for added comfort.

Gently lift your cat's upper lip and rub your finger across your cat's gumline for a few moments. Dipping your finger in tuna water first, will help make this a pleasant experience for your cat.

Repeat this 2 to 3 times a day for a week. Only move on to the next step when your cat seems completely comfortable with having his gums touched.

Step 2:

Repeat the above step, but this time wrap a small piece of gauze around your finger (again you can add a few drops of tuna water to the gauze). Do this for about 30 sec to a minute, depending how well your cat is tolerating this. Repeat 2 to 3 times a day for another week.

Step 3: Introduce the toothbrush. Purchase a fingerbrush specially designed for cats. Get your cat used to the consistency of the toothbrush by allowing your cat to lick something tasty off the brush.

Step 4: Toothpaste time! Squeeze a little cat toothpaste (CET® Toothpaste) on your finger and let your cat lick it off. NEVER use human toothpaste, as these products are not designed to be swallowed, and may upset your cats stomach. Repeat this a few times a day.

Step 5: Put it all together. Now add the toothpaste to the brush and let your cat lick it off. Add a little more toothpaste and gently brush a small area of your cat's teeth using circular motions. Gradually do a larger area each day until you are brushing the cat's entire mouth. Brush your cat's teeth daily.



Dilella Veterinary Services

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Can't Brush?

No matter how patient you are, some cats just can't get used to you brushing their teeth. Don't ignore oral health because of this.

Here's what you can do:

The American Veterinary Dental Association reports more than 80 percent of dogs and cats older than 3 years have periodontal disease!

1

Add a couple teaspoons of **Clenz-a-dent Water Additive** to your cat's water bowl or **Clenz-a-dent PlaqueOff™** to your cat's food dish daily.

- These products contain special ingredients that break down the biofilm made by bacteria, decreasing plaque and tartar build up.

2

Teeth left untended quickly accumulate plaque buildup, which causes the gums to recede and bacteria to take up lodging in your pet's mouth. Over time, this oral bacteria causes infections that enter the bloodstream and spread throughout his body. This bacteria can damage your pet's heart, liver, kidneys, and compromise nearly every aspect of his or her health. This process sounds like it should be a rare occurrence, but it is incredibly common.

Be alert for signs of periodontal disease in your cat:

- Bad breath
- Loose or discolored teeth
- Pain or swelling around the mouth/face
- Excessive drooling
- Difficulty eating
- Bleeding from the mouth
- Loss of appetite or loss of weight

3

Have your cat's teeth regularly examined by our veterinarian and follow recommendations for professional teeth cleaning.

Supported by:



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