

# How to Brush Your Dog's Teeth

*If your dog starts to get anxious or upset during any step. Never scold. Stop and try again when your dog is more relaxed.*

## Step 1:

Make sure you and your dog are comfortable. Kneel or sit beside or in front of your dog. Have several small treats ready!

Gently rub your finger across your dog's gumline for a few moments, praise your dog while you are doing this. Give treats before and after each session.

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

## Step 2:

Repeat step 1, but this time wrap a small piece of dry gauze around your finger.

Do this for about 30 seconds to a minute, depending how well your dog is tolerating this.

Repeat 2 to 3 times a day for 1 week.

**Step 3:** Toothpaste time! Squeeze a little dog toothpaste (CET<sup>®</sup> Toothpaste) on your finger and let your dog lick it off, then repeat Step 2. NEVER use human toothpaste or baking soda, as both are not designed to be swallowed and will upset your dog's stomach.

**Step 4:** Introduce the toothbrush. Purchase a toothbrush specially designed for dogs. Finger brushes can be ideal for small dogs. Use a small amount of dog toothpaste on the brush.

Hold the toothbrush so that the bristles are angled up at the gumline (about a 45° angle). Brush gently in small circles. Only brush a small area. Do this once daily.

**Step 5:** Gradually brush a larger area each day, or as your dog's comfort level allows. Brush your dog's teeth daily for one to two minutes.

*The key to starting a successful home dental care routine is **PATIENCE!** Always use positive reinforcement and make dental care a pleasant and rewarding moment for both your dog and you.*



DiLella Veterinary Services

610.944.1538

# Can't Brush?

*No matter how patient you are, some dogs 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

## **C.E.T.® VEGGIEDENT® Tartar Control Chews**

- An exclusive Z-shape to this yummy treat which works with a dog's chewing action to reduce plaque and decrease tartar formation.
- Shown to reduce plaque by 37% and calculus by 70.8%.

2

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

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

3

Feed a specially designed dental pet food, **Purnia DH Dental Health™**

- A complete and balanced diet for all dogs, with added dental benefits proven to reduce the buildup of tartar and plaque.

4

**Be alert for signs of periodontal disease in your dog:**

- 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

*Call for an appointment should you notice any of these signs in your dog.*

Supported by:



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