

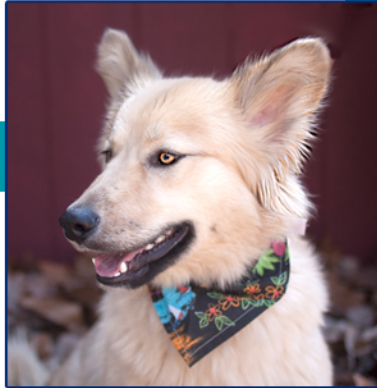


Pet Dental Health

Getting to the root of dental disease in dogs and cats

Bad teeth and dental diseases can cause problems with the heart, kidney and liver! Here are some tips to help you and your pet enjoy a happy, healthy life together- shiny teeth included!

FACTS



- It only takes 48 hours for plaque (removable with toothbrush) to calcify and turn into tartar (which does not come off with brushing).
- Approximately 80% of dogs over the age of 3 years have gingivitis or periodontal disease.
- Chewing on ice cubes, rocks, and bones can break your pet's teeth.
- The mouth is the 4th most common site for tumors in the body.

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HOW TO PREVENT DENTAL DISEASE

- Daily brushing may help to save teeth, prolong life, and decrease the number of anesthetic dental cleanings needed by your pet.
- If you can't brush your pet's teeth, consider special dental diets and treats to decrease plaque and tartar.
- Puppies and kittens benefit from a thorough oral exam to check for normal tooth eruption and normal bite.
- Use only toothpaste and toothbrushes made for dogs and cats.
- When introducing toothbrushing to your pet, take it slow and make it a positive experience for him.

SYMPTOMS OF DENTAL PROBLEMS

- Decreased appetite and chewing tendencies may be due to painful teeth.
- Foul smelling breath may indicate dental disease.
- Bleeding gums
- Yellow or brown stains on teeth
- Loose teeth or teeth loss

See a regional veterinarian to address concerns about your pet's dental health and teeth cleanings.

Learn how to brush your pet's teeth at
<http://www.drsfostersmith.com/pic/article.cfm?aid=997>

February is National Pet Dental Health Month