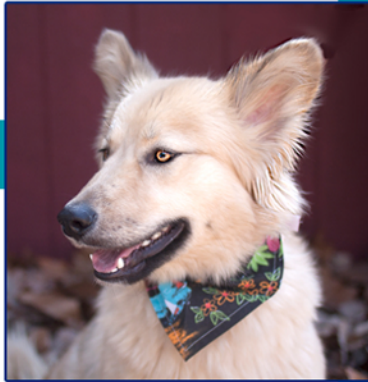




# Pet Dental Health

*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.

Animal Welfare Association, 509 Centennial Blvd, Voorhees, NJ 08043  
[www.awanj.org](http://www.awanj.org)

## 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*