

Leading the way in oral health care for pets



▶ Start a teeth
cleaning routine
today



ORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS – KNOW THE SIGNS

Knowing what oral health problems your pet might be suffering from is important – that way you can prevent them and get them help if they need it. If you notice any of the following signs of oral disease, it's time to get in touch with us and book a dental check-up. Better all-round oral hygiene for your pet is all about getting into a regular brushing routine. See inside this leaflet for advice on how to build a successful oral health care routine with your pet.



Tartar or calculus

Yellow/brown staining, hardened deposits of dental plaque.



Fractured teeth



Gingivitis

Inflammation of the gums (gums should be 'salmon pink', if red or bleeding, they are inflamed).



Infection or abscess



Periodontitis

Inflammation or infection of the tissues that support the tooth in its socket.



Bad breath (halitosis)

Usually caused by bacterial build-up.



Resorptive lesions

Painful erosive wounds (more common in cats). Also referred to as neck lesions and feline odontoclastic lesions (FORLs).

Advanced signs – these need immediate veterinary care...

- Loose, damaged, or missing teeth
- Difficulty chewing, chewing on only one side of the mouth, or dropping food out of their mouths
- Loss of appetite and weight loss
- Facial swelling, or nasal discharge – may indicate a dental abscess
- Changes in behaviour, such as not playing as much with toys or chews

Healthy teeth, healthy pet.

TOGETHER WE CAN KEEP YOUR PET HEALTHIER AND HAPPIER FOR LONGER WITH REGULAR ORAL HEALTH CHECK-UPS AND HOME CARE ROUTINES.



KEEPING THEIR MOUTHS AND TEETH HEALTHY



Regular teeth cleaning

Using a specifically formulated pet toothpaste and a pet designed toothbrush will stand you in good stead to build the confidence and trust you need to build a teeth cleaning routine.



Oral rinses

Oral rinses are especially useful if gums are too sore to brush, especially immediately after a oral health care treatment.



Regular oral health check-ups

Regular check-ups of your pet's teeth and mouth are a key way of keeping on top of any potential signs of oral disease. With the guide in this leaflet, you will be able to identify what oral health problems your pet might be suffering from.



Specialist diets

Some brands of pet food offer ranges that are specifically designed to be kind to your pet's teeth and can be used in conjunction with brushing. The biscuit size, shape and texture is formulated to provide an increased abrasive action.



Gels

Gel products are beneficial for pets that suffer from or are likely to develop gum disease. Gels can also be beneficial for cats where brushing is not tolerated as they can be applied with a cotton bud and may allow progression to a toothbrush.



Dental chews

Dental chews may help to reduce plaque accumulation and tartar formation on teeth, and pets love the taste.



For more advice, ask your vet during your appointment or speak to reception.

How to build a successful

ORAL HEALTH CARE ROUTINE WITH YOUR PET.

Regular brushing is the most effective way to control plaque build-up that leads to tartar. Remember... you should always use a specially designed pet toothbrush and toothpaste when brushing your pet's teeth.



Stage 1 **Build confidence**

- Smaller pets can be placed at a comfortable working height where they feel secure, on a chair, table or lap covered with a towel to prevent slipping.
- For cats it can be easier if there are two people and for larger pets it may be best to leave them on the floor.
- Gently rub the face and muzzle with fingers and hands only. Work up to being able to gently hold your pet's mouth closed for a short period. This can be done by placing fingers on top of the nose, or muzzle, with the thumb under the chin. Do this for approximately 30 seconds and then reward with fuss, play, a treat, or all the above.
- Repeat daily for at least five days or until your pet is relaxed and comfortable with this.



Stage 2 **Finger brushing**

- You must use a pet-specific toothpaste and place your pet in the building confidence position.
- Gently close the mouth as practiced. Your pet's lips will be relaxed, so there is no need to try and hold their mouth open.
- Apply a small amount of toothpaste to a fingertip or finger toothbrush and slide under the lip to rub the paste onto the teeth.
- Start from the canine (fang teeth) and work backwards.
- Many pets find the incisors (small teeth at the front of the mouth) very sensitive, so only brush these once your pet has become used to the other teeth being brushed.



▶ Stage 3 Introducing a toothbrush

Once your pet is happy with finger brushing, you can progress to a specially designed pet toothbrush.

- Place the toothpaste onto the brush and slide under the gum with the finger brush and gently brush your pet's teeth.
- If you are right-handed, it is easier to brush the left side of your pet's mouth. We recommend working hard at ensuring that both sides of the mouth are equally brushed. This may mean starting on the side that you feel least comfortable brushing.
- When you start brushing you may notice a small amount of blood on the toothbrush. As you continue to brush, over time this will stop appearing as you will be tackling the gum disease responsible for the bleeding. If it doesn't stop, get in touch with us.

Advanced brushing

This is advanced level brushing, and you should only try it if you and your pet are comfortable and confident to do so.

Consider the gums

If you find the brushing easy and your pet is very tolerant, try brushing their gums too.

To do this you will need to look carefully at which teeth you are brushing. Angle the toothbrush so that the bristles gently clean the gum around the base of each tooth.

Types of toothbrushes

When your pet is comfortable with teeth cleaning with a pet toothbrush, you could try a child's soft bristled, small headed toothbrush. For the very tolerant pet, electric toothbrushes can be used for those not concerned by the noise.



WHY IS YOUR PET'S ORAL HEALTH CARE SO IMPORTANT?

Poor oral health can lead to other health complications. Regular toothbrushing is the most effective way to control plaque build-up that leads to tartar... avoiding painful, inflamed gums, damaged teeth and bad breath.

We have a range of oral treatments that will keep your four-legged friend in the best oral health – and show them just how much you love them!

See inside this leaflet for advice on how to build a successful oral health care routine with your pet.

Find out more about oral health care and hygiene, at abbeyvetspets.co.uk



abbeyvetspets.co.uk