



At Home Dental Care

- **Brushing**

Did you know that most pets have periodontal disease by age 3? This means not just plaque and tartar visible on the tooth, but also bacteria buildup and root disease **BELOW** the gumline.

- **Chews / Treats**

The gooey buildup (**PLAQUE**) will mineralize into the rock like **TARTAR** without at home preventative care.

- **Water/Food
Additives**

Tartar can only be removed by professional cleaning and by the time it forms, disease below the surface is likely. This can lead to rotten teeth and infected jaw bones. Bacteria and disease in the mouth can also spread to the heart, liver and kidneys.

BRUSHING



Studies have shown that brushing *3-4 times PER WEEK* is required to MAINTAIN healthy teeth/gums but DAILY brushing is needed to control existing gingivitis/disease. The once a visit “cleaning” that your groomer offers may remove some plaque to improve the appearance of the teeth but is not addressing the disease below the gumline or the damage from bacteria as professional cleaning and regular at home care can. Even if your pet won’t tolerate frequent brushing, most pet toothpaste contains an enzyme that will reduce oral bacteria, so just making contact with the teeth/ gumline is beneficial!

You Will Need	DO'S AND DON'T'S OF BRUSHING YOUR PET'S TEETH:
Pet Toothpaste Small Soft Bristled toothbrush Gauzel finger brush if your pet prefers Pet Toothpaste	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> DON'T use human toothpaste> DON'T attempt to brush the inside surface of the teeth. Saliva enzymes clean this surface more than the outer surfaces. The surface of the teeth contacting the “lips” is the most important to brush.> DON'T perform home care during the first 2 weeks after a dental procedure> DO try the toothpaste WITHOUT a brush first so that your pet gets used to the flavor before having the brush in their mouth. Drooling is ok! Some pets actually do better without toothpaste.> DO start young – get your pet used to the brush starting at 9 months old> DO try brushes vs finger brushes vs wipes

GENERAL TECHNIQUE: Toothbrushing should be enjoyable for your pet. Start slow. This process may take weeks. Start by getting your pet comfortable with you touching their mouth and lifting their lips, and eventually sliding your finger into their mouth. Reward often with small treats for positive reinforcement. Once they are comfortable with you handling their lips/mouth let your pet get used to the toothpaste on your finger before introducing it on the brush. Let them sniff and taste it. Use your finger to apply it and then slowly graduate to the brush/cloth. Strive for 30 seconds of brushing the outer surface of the teeth on each side 3-4 times per week.

Dental Chews / Treats



CARDINAL RULE OF CHEWS: If it would be uncomfortable to smack yourself in the kneecap with the product.....

Don't allow your pet to chew on it.

VOHC Approved	VOHC approved chews / treats are always the best choice
VeggieDent FR3SH Chews OraVet Chews C.E.T Enzymatic rawhides Purina Pro Plan Crunchy Bites Feline Treats C.E.T. Intellident Cat Bite	<p>➤ EDIBLE CHEWS/ TREATS: Be mindful of how many times per week the product is meant to be ingested....Unless it is formulated to be a daily treat, stick to 2-3 times per week.</p> <p>➤ COW HOOVES, MARROW BONES, & ANTLERS are not appropriate chew toys as they are too hard and can easily break teeth. If you really want to try marrow bones, try a goat marrow bone but still use with caution.</p> <p>➤ ALWAYS SUPERVISE YOUR PET – Any chew or toy can be swallowed in a large chunk and lead to choking or intestinal obstruction. Take treats away that are chewed down into small pieces to prevent choking.</p> <p>➤ PUPPIES: Until their adult teeth come in (6 months of age) offer chews / toys that are not meant to be eaten/ swallowed. These and/or chews formulated specifically for puppies will reduce the risk of breaking teeth and upsetting stomachs!</p>

Water / Food Additives



A LOW MAINTENANCE APPROACH TO DENTAL HYGIENE

VOHC Approved /
Available at RCVH

These products are available through RCVH's in house pharmacy.

- **Perio Support Advanced Food Additive**



Perio Support Dental Powder for Dogs & Cats

Perio Support is a powdered...
vetriscience.com

➤ These products are meant to be added to your pets' water bowl or food bowl DAILY. Even every other day use, alternating with brushing or a dental chew is a great way to use them.

➤ These are a great option for cats and dogs who won't allow brushing or who refuse chews/treats.

➤ There are SO many of these products on the market – find one that your pet likes and DOESN'T CONTAIN CHLORHEXIDINE OR XYLITOL and use it up to every single day.

- **VetraDent Water Additive**

VETRADENT®

VETRADENT® Toothpaste

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