



Brushing your pet's teeth

The baby teeth of puppies erupt as early as two weeks. Adult teeth replace these baby teeth by 6 months of age. Once the adult teeth erupt, they should be brushed daily and this is much easier if your pet is already used to having its mouth and teeth handled.

The best time to brush your pet's teeth is when you are both relaxed. Tooth brushing should be introduced slowly, and may even take several days to weeks for you and your pet to adjust. If your pet resists the brushing or shows any other signs of aggression during tooth brushing, stop immediately. Try the brushing process again tomorrow. Please call us for any other pointers we may have.

Follow these steps in order, moving on as your pet accepts each step.

1. Gently position your pet in a corner (of a sofa, chair or room) so that he/she will be secure, comfortable and more easily handled. Carefully lift the lips to expose his/her teeth



2. Rub your finger over your pet's teeth and gums for about 15 seconds to get your pet used to having something in his/her mouth. It might be necessary to do this a couple of times before the next step.

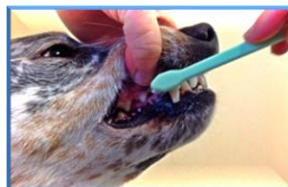
3. Put a small amount of pet toothpaste on your finger, and allow the pet to taste it. **Only use a pet toothpaste**



4. Place a small amount of pet toothpaste on a finger, brush or piece of gauze over the index finger. Gently rub the brush on the outside of your pet's teeth and gums. Repeat this process for the next few brushing sessions. As soon as your pet begins to accept this, transition to a regular dog or cat toothbrush.



5. Apply a small amount of pet toothpaste to a bristle toothbrush specially designed for pets. Place the brush bristles at a 45-degree angle to the gum line. Move the brush gently in circular patterns over your pet's teeth. Start by brushing a few teeth. As brushing sessions continue, slowly include more teeth. Build up to about 30 seconds on each side of the dog's mouth. Remember to brush both upper and lower teeth



Brushing your pet's teeth is the gold standard in preventing dental disease.