

Dental Care for Your Puppy

Over 70% of pets over 3 years old have evidence of periodontal disease. Periodontal disease can lead to tooth and bone loss, as well as negative effects on the heart, kidneys, and other internal organs. By starting preventative care at an early age these complications and the need for professional dental cleanings under anesthesia can be decreased.

Brushing should be a pleasant experience for your puppy. We recommend using a pet specific toothpaste (human toothpaste has ingredients which may be harmful to your pet) and a brush comfortable for you and your pet.

Tooth Brushing Tips

- Start by lifting your pet's lips to inspect all teeth, including the ones in the back, then move on to touching the teeth with the toothbrush.
- Accustom your pet to the toothpaste by offering it on your fingertips.
- Brush only the outside of your pet's teeth using a circular motion. Pay special attention to where the tooth meets the gum line.
- Through all these steps, large amounts of praise and treat rewards are recommended.
- If your pet seems uncomfortable or scared, return to where they were last comfortable and build their tolerance more slowly.

Daily brushing is the most effective way to decreased tartar accumulation. Tartar control diets and treats can also slow tartar build-up, but are most effective if used in addition to brushing. The **VOHC (Veterinary Oral Health Council)** is a group of veterinary dentists who check that these diets stand up to their claims as being beneficial for dental health. Visit www.vohc.org for more information.

As always, the doctors and staff of Pleasant Valley Animal Hospital are available to answer any questions you may have on taking care of your four-legged family members teeth. Our Team Members receive regular Continuing Education on the dental products and diets that we recommend, and we are happy to demonstrate proper home care techniques.



Pleasant Valley
Animal Hospital