



## Cat and Dog Home Dental Care

We now know maintaining oral health will **add quality and quantity time to their lives**. Other benefits are **less pain** and **better smelling breath**, which leads to a **better relationship with you**. Just as in people, the soft plaque starts to build up on their teeth within 24 hours post-cleaning. Therefore, daily brushing is the ideal goal. We are here to assist you in becoming successful.

### Helpful Hints

- (1) Start today if there has been no recent dental work— it is easy to put this off. If your pet just completed a professional teeth cleaning, wait until you get the go ahead at your two week courtesy post cleaning recheck visit.
- (2) Begin by introducing a tasty treat (e.g., tuna juice, cream cheese, beef broth, etc.) on your finger onto the upper gum tissue of the mouth. At this point we just want them to view this as “person’s finger in my mouth means I am getting something tasty to eat.” Have your pet in a controlled yet comfortable position (you don’t want to frighten him/her. Some will do quite well on the top of a washer or dryer-others are fine next to you or if small enough-on your lap.
- (3) Perform the ritual of teeth brushing along with another activity you are already in the habit of performing daily (e.g., feeding, brushing, watching the news, etc.) If you tag this new ritual onto an existing habit, it is much more likely to become a routine.
- (4) After your pet looks forward to the daily enjoyable treat in the mouth, then start the brushing motion with your finger on the side of the upper jaw teeth.
- (5) When you and your pet are successful and enjoying the above, graduate to a toothbrush with pet toothpaste. Brushing motion is at a 45° angle to the tooth. Again—we are just asking you brush the outside upper teeth. This is where most of the plaque will build up.

We want to help you with this 30 to 60 second daily commitment in any way we can. ***Please ask us for help, advice or a demonstration. (There is a nice video demonstrating cat teeth brushing on our link to the Cornell Cat Newsletter on our webpage)***

A new dental care product that we are very excited to offer is **OraVet dental sealant**. When applied to their teeth once a week this product helps to reduce new plaque and tartar deposits. For all adult cats and dogs not requiring another prescription diet, we use and recommend **TD Prescription Diet** (the "edible toothbrush" diet). We also offer other options such as **CET enzymatic chews**, **greenies**, and **OxyFresh**, (drinking water additive, and gel) to assist in periodontal disease control for both dogs and cats. Please ask us for help in choosing the right product for your family member pet.

Dogs have many chew toy options – we recommend **Dental Kongs**, **Plaque Attackers**, rope chew toys and softer **Nylabones**. We have seen damaged teeth in dogs chewing on bones, sticks and rocks. Some dogs experience intestinal problems after chewing on pig's ears, hooves or rawhide chews. Effective cat chew toys are often the most simple – some catnip packaged in a loosely woven fabric (like an old sock). CET also makes a fish flavored chew for cats.

