

DENTAL CARE: BRUSHING YOUR PET'S TEETH



When it comes to dental care, you can never start too young. The sooner you get your puppy or kitten used to you playing with their mouth and brushing their teeth, the better!

HERE'S HOW TO GET STARTED:

Play with your pet's mouth – be patient and make it a fun experience.

- Love, praise and treats work well!

Handle your pet's muzzle, touch their lips and work your way up to rubbing their teeth and gums with your finger.

- Try using a washcloth or gauze over your finger.
- Often using low sodium chicken or beef broth or tuna juice will make this easier

When you think they are ready ... get a brush!

- You can use a finger brush
- You can use a child's toothbrush
- You can buy a dual ended toothbrush from your veterinarian's office

You will also need a veterinary toothpaste – poultry, seafood, malt flavored

- Put a small amount on the toothbrush and let your pet just lick it off – like a treat
- Finding a flavor your pet really likes will make this easier
- Never use toothpaste for people—it can make your pet sick!

If you are never able to brush, there are alternatives

- Prescription diets designed for dental health care
- Chew toys
- Enzymatic rawhide chews
- Veggie Dents
- FYI: Do not give your pets natural bones – they are too hard and can fracture their teeth!

