

DENTAL CARE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Dental care is EXTREMELY important for both you and your pet. It helps to prevent the need for frequent cleanings as well as health problems such as gingivitis – tooth decay - loss – and Kidney Failure associated with Dental Disease. Bacteria in the mouth and on the teeth easily migrate into the blood stream and can negatively affect your pet’s kidneys – heart and liver. Periodontal disease is PREVENTABLE with routine cleanings and routine preventative measures performed at home. Here are some ways you can help PREVENT Dental Disease in your pet:

1. Our first recommendation is starting your pet on Plaque Off – it is an easier, less time-consuming method of preventing Tartar buildup and bad breath. Plaque Off is a 100% natural product that contains no gluten, sugar or additives. This seaweed-based product is sprinkled over your pet’s food to aid in oral hygiene. It bonds to tartar, breaks tartar off the teeth, and helps prevent new tartar from forming. Simply add this powder to your pet’s food daily. This product works well for dogs and cats that do not like to chew or are too sick for a sedated dental cleaning.
2. You can also treat your dog or cat to Dental Chews – For dogs – we recommend CET HEXTRA CHEWS – They have enzymes that are in toothpaste built into the chew as well as an antibacterial agent – Chlorhexidine Gluconate – These help to scrape tartar and plaque off the teeth and rid the mouth of bacteria – If you purchase chews from a local pet store – please keep in mind that they must be “enzymatic” to be effective – WE also carry CET CHEWS for cats in both poultry and fish flavor.
3. And lastly – but possibly the most important aspect to Dental Care – We recommend you try brushing your pet’s teeth at least three times a week – You can buy toothpaste and toothbrushes at The Scottsdale Veterinary Clinic or at a local pet store – We know it can be difficult to brush your pet’s teeth so here are a few ideas that may help you be more successful in performing this task:
 - Always put your pet someplace where they are NOT alone – such as a bathtub, table or counter
 - ALWAYS use a VERY soft bristled brush or finger brush – You can even start out by using your finger for the first few brushings to help your pet get used to the experience and the toothpaste
 - Do NOT use Human toothpaste – It contains Soap and Other ingredients that should NOT be swallowed – These ingredients could make your pet ill
 - Use pet toothpaste – We sell three flavors of the CET Toothpaste – or you may make your own toothpaste from equal parts of salt and baking soda – Simply place the “Toothpaste” on a wet toothbrush or soft cloth
 - Brush with a circular motion along the gum line and both the insides and outsides of their teeth
 - Be sure to feed your pet a special crunchy treat or dog food after brushing – Rewards for good behavior will help your pet understand that brushing is fun and should be done as often as possible
 - Try feeding dry crunchy food and treats – These will help to scrape plaque off the teeth
 - Every dog and cat are different and some are more prone to dental disease than others – Therefore periodic dental exams and regular cleanings are important to maintain your pet’s good health.