

pet health tips

from Petplan



tips on toothbrushing

Daily toothbrushing is hands-down the most effective form of home dental care. Not only does the brushing slow down plaque accumulation, but it also allows you a daily observation of your pet's teeth and gums to catch any potential problems early on. Like periodontal disease, otherwise known as Gum Disease. While this is treatable, it's always better (and more cost effective) to prevent the disease rather than treat it once it's advanced. Starting your pet on home dental care early on will help keep his mouth healthy for a lifetime.

To get started, just follow these guidelines:

- Start slow and praise your pet often. Starting them at a young age is easiest, but any pet can learn to accept toothbrushing.
- Make it enjoyable. Cats like tuna juice on the toothbrush. For dogs, allow them to lick the doggie toothpaste off of the brush.
- Never force your pet to hold still, or he'll resent the toothbrush. Instead, for larger dogs try forcing them into a corner, it'll make moving around less easy, but they won't feel restrained. For small dogs and cats try putting a towel down on a countertop, table or even your lap.
- Try gradually brushing one or two teeth at a time.
- Make it part of your routine. So that you remember and they feel more relaxed.
- Reward them after brushing, no matter how long he stood there. Eventually they may even begin to beg to have their teeth brushed so that they can have their reward.



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