



## How To Brush Your Pet's Teeth

Pets are an important part of our lives for many years. Good dental care is essential to extend your pet's lifespan and assure a good quality of life. Just like you, your pet needs to receive daily dental care at home. It is best to begin home care when the puppy or kitten is between 8 and 12 weeks of age; however, it is never too late. If the animal has any accumulated tartar, it must be removed ultrasonically at the clinic. This process, called a prophylaxis, will allow you to start your home care with teeth that are free of plaque and tartar and will make your efforts easier and more effective.

The daily brushing process should be pleasant for both you and your pet. Many pets enjoy the added attention while many owners look forward to the close quality time spent with their companion animal.

The supplies you need are a finger brush, or toothbrush, and CET pet dentifrice. Most animals accept brushing very well if they are introduced to the procedure in a calm and patient way. We have supplied some daily tips to introducing your home dental program into your animal's life.

**Stage 1:** Gently pet and scratch the muzzle, slowly lifting the lip for a few seconds. Repeat a few times and then reward with a treat at the end of the session.

**Stage 2:** Repeat as above except gently run your finger over your pet's teeth for a few seconds. Reward and praise again.

**Stage 3:** Repeat Stage 2, increase the amount of time spent touching your pet's gums by a few seconds. Always reward with praise and treat.

**Stage 4:** If all is going well, start using a toothbrush or fingerbrush. Praise and treat.

**Stage 5:** Repeat as above and increase the time the finger brush is in your pet's mouth by a few seconds. Praise and treat.

**Stage 6:** Repeat as above, adding a small amount of the CET toothpaste to the finger brush and gently pass it over the teeth.

For adequate brushing, 30 seconds per side of brushing daily is sufficient. If your pet will tolerate longer, great!!

### Helpful Hints

- ❖ Be patient. Take time with the process or else the pet may become resistant,
- ❖ Praise your pet. It's a new experience and praising your pet will make him or her more receptive.
- ❖ Reward your pet with treats at the end of each session, make it fun!
- ❖ Stop immediately if your pet shows any signs of aggression
- ❖ Human toothpaste is for humans and NOT for pets. It is common for human toothpaste to cause stomach problems and even vomiting if swallowed.
- ❖ Brushing the teeth at home will decrease the frequency of regular professional care but not eliminate it.
- ❖ Brushing daily and using CET chews is the best home dental program you can offer your pet.
- ❖ Remember, always make it fun!

Courtesy:

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