

Dental Care



Home care is at least as important as the treatment we have from the vet's office. A regular program of oral care is essential to ensure the health of your pet's mouth. Many items and techniques are available to use with your pet ranging from special diets, oral hygiene sprays, chew devices, and teeth cleaning products. Brushing your pet's teeth is still the most effective way to maintain good oral hygiene. However not all animals are receptive to this type of procedure and not all people are able to devote the time necessary to brush their animal's teeth. Below are tips to help you get started on the right foot to where this becomes a simple procedure.

1. Do it every day – or as often as possible
2. Do it at the same time every day
3. Do it in the same place every day
4. Make it fun
5. Build up to it gradually; don't spend more than 30-60 seconds initially.

Some pets may take longer to get used to the procedure and others who are used to having their mouth handled will accept this more quickly.

This is a three week training program that will insure that you and your pet will enjoy this short time together with the benefit being a healthy mouth and some quiet bonding time.

Week 1:

Pet the muzzle and pull back the lip to feel the gums with your fingers – massaging the gums all the way to the back with the mouth closed. Remember to do this daily at the same time and place. This starts a habit . Finish with lots of praise and a treat.

Week 2:

Pet the muzzle with the toothbrush and let the pet taste the toothpaste using of course, a toothpaste created specifically for dogs. People toothpaste is not appropriate. Follow the same procedure with the toothpaste as was done with your finger in week one.

Week 3:

Brush the teeth starting with the top teeth first. Use a circular motion. It's ok if the dog chews on the toothbrush – he's more or less brushing his own teeth that way.



There are many toy products on the market touted as beneficial to good oral hygiene but not all are safe – especially for active chewers like Dobermans. **DO NOT USE “GREENIES” PRODUCTS !!!** These can be dangerous and are not totally digestible and can cause a stomach blockage resulting in surgery or in some cases death.

Crunchy dog treats will greatly help keep teeth clean as will Nylabone Products with no health risk. Rope toys should be discarded when frayed. Raw knuckle bones are beneficial.

