

Dental Care

Just like humans, animals need proper dental care! Four out of every five dogs has some sort of dental disease by age three. Ninety percent of cats will develop dental problems at some point in their life. Here's how you can prevent your pet from developing dental issues.

At home

You should brush your dog or cat's teeth at least three times per week in order to keep their mouths clean.

At the vet

Your dog and cat should start getting annual professional dental cleanings once they turn two years of age.

Symptoms of Dental Disease

- Bad breath: an unusually strong odor may suggest digestive problems or a dental condition
- Bleeding or a dark red line along the gums
- Gum inflammation: swollen gums can lead to gum disease, tooth loss, inability to eat, and can be a sign of kidney disease or feline immunodeficiency virus
- Ulcers on the gums
- Excessive drooling or pawing at the mouth area
- Difficulty chewing food or refusal to eat

Supplemental options

- Oral gels
- Dental chew toys
- Dental treats



How to Brush

With a finger brush or nylon toothbrush, use dog- or cat-specific toothpaste to gently clean their teeth.

Don't use your own toothpaste – certain ingredients may irritate your pet's stomach.

Your dog or cat may be very fussy the first time you try to brush their teeth. Keep brushing sessions short for the first several weeks and be sure to reward them with treats and praise. This will help them to associate brushing with positive experiences.