

How to Brush My Pet's Teeth



Start brushing your pet's teeth early (8-12 weeks of age is best). If you brush every day, your pet will become familiar with the routine when their permanent teeth erupt. Please note: You may need to stop brushing while your pet loses their baby teeth. Their mouth will be a bit sore and handling may cause more pain. You can continue brushing once all permanent teeth come in. Although it is better to start when your pet is younger, older pets can learn new tricks too!



Gently work with your pet's mouth. Be patient and make it fun. Use love and praise, and try to practice at the same time each day to establish a routine. Choose a quiet time, such as late in the evening. Or, if your pet is highly motivated by food, try just before dinner so they'll be rewarded for their cooperation.



Handle your pet's muzzle and touch their lips. Work up to rubbing the teeth and gums with your finger. Put a small amount of water flavored with low-sodium chicken or beef bouillon for dogs and tuna juice for cats in your pet's mouth and they'll begin to look forward to these sessions.



Rub the teeth gently with a bouillon or tuna flavored wash cloth or gauze wrapped around the end of your finger. Each new step may only take a few days or up to a few weeks to master comfort and acceptance by your pet.



Finally, use a finger brush or a soft toothbrush to brush the teeth using the bouillon water or tuna juice. Hold the brush at a 45 degree angle to the tooth and brush gently back and forth or in a circular pattern from gum to tip. The ideal toothbrush has a long handle, angled head and soft bristles. Brushing the tongue side of the teeth is less critical, but still good. Offer rewards or treats (dental food or treats are good options) when your pet allows you to brush.



Selecting a tooth paste that is specifically formulated for cats and dogs is important. The best pet toothpaste is one that contains enzymes aimed at controlling plaque. Avoid human toothpaste because fluoride and detergents

can be harmful if swallowed. Hydrogen peroxide can be harsh on the gums and shouldn't be swallowed either. Baking soda has a high sodium content and should be avoided in older pets.