

DENTAL HOME CARE

- ❖ The American Veterinary Dental Society recommends a **dental cleaning every 6 months**. We brush our teeth at least daily and still have our teeth cleaned every 6 months - imagine not brushing!!
- ❖ With **good dental home care** we hope to increase the time between dental cleanings to 1+ years. This minimizes your pet undergoing an anesthetic procedure and saves you the cost of more frequent dental cleanings.
- ❖ Your **main goal is plaque removal**. Plaque is the film on the teeth composed of bacteria that adheres to the enamel surface of tooth. **Plaque**, if not removed, leads to **tartar** formation (hard brown material on teeth you can not brush off) and **gingivitis** (inflammation of the gums). As dental disease advances it **destroys the periodontal ligament and bone**, both of which hold the teeth in! This leads to **pain, infection, tooth loss and potential secondary kidney, liver, heart and lung disease**.

DOGS:

Brushing - Daily is optimal but at least 3x/week. This is the GOLD STANDARD in dental home care. Never use human toothpaste - there are flavored pastes for dogs designed to be swallowed without upsetting their stomach.

Dental diets - Hills T/D Diet, Royal Canin Dental Diet

Tartar Shield Denta Tabs - Tasteless, calorie free tablets to add to drinking water with a plaque-fighting ingredient.

CET Rinse - Alternative to brushing as anti-plaque treatment if your dog will not tolerate brushing.

Chewing - Daily chewing on bones, dental toys (hard rubber toys like the Kong and Buddy Buddy are best) and compressed rawhide helps to massage gums and remove plaque.

Aquadent- plaque fighting drinking water additive used to supplement a home dental care program.

Tartar Shield Dog Biscuits - Treats formulated with an ingredient to fight plaque accumulation.

CATS:

Brushing - Daily is optimal but AT LEAST 3x/week. This is the GOLD STANDARD in dental home care. Never use human toothpaste - there are flavored pastes for cats designed to be swallowed without upsetting their stomach.

Dental Diets - Hills T/D Diet and Royal Canin Dental Diet.

Tartar Shield cat treats - For cats who will not allow brushing or as an addition to brushing offer a DAILY chew - with an anti-plaque ingredient.

Dental Rinses - Alternative to brushing as an anti-plaque treatment.

Aquadent- plaque fighting drinking water additive used to supplement a home dental care program.

Tartar Shield DentaTabs - - Tasteless, calorie free tablets to add to drinking water with a plaque fighting ingredient.

FOLLOW-UP:

This is a critical addition to long-term dental care. Through frequent oral examinations, we can identify problem areas in order to direct proper home care.

Grade I-II gingivitis: 6 month dental exam

Grade III gingivitis: 3 month dental exam

Grade IV periodontal disease: 1 month dental exam

THE CAROLINAS ANIMAL HOSPITAL & DENTAL CLINIC

