



DENTAL CARE FOR YOUR PET

To ensure your pet's teeth remain in good condition, we advise a daily or twice weekly teeth cleaning regime. Regular brushing will break down the daily deposit of plaque (the film of food and bacteria that forms on teeth) before it hardens into tartar.

Most animals will allow some amount of teeth cleaning if one makes the experience pleasurable and starts out gradually.

Begin with slow, gentle handling of the pet's mouth. Massage along the cheek side of the teeth and gumline with your finger. Make this a comfortable and relaxing time for your pet and give lots of praise. These first sessions may only last a few seconds, but gradually increase the amount of time that you are in the mouth as your pet becomes more used to having his teeth handled.

Once your pet accepts handling of his mouth, you may wrap a soft cloth or gauze around your finger to wipe the teeth. If this is acceptable to your pet, you may then move onto a finger toothbrush, or pet toothbrush. Use only special pet toothpaste; such as C.E.T. or Dentivet; on the gauze and brush, as human toothpaste can cause stomach irritation when swallowed.

Always give frequent praise and the occasional treat as a reward for its' cooperation; as with all obedience activities, you reward the behavior you want.

Other aides to Cleaner Teeth:

- OralRinse** soothing, refreshing and highly palatable mouth rinse that has antimicrobial properties. This rinse is alcohol-free and may provide temporary relief of minor gum irritation.
- C.E.T. Chews** tasty, chewable pieces made from dried fish for cats and dried beef and poultry for dogs. These chews are formulated with enzymes to aid in the reduction of tartar build up in your pet's mouth after a dentistry.
- Chew toys** there are now many different chew toys, such as dental kong, chewees, or the Pedigree Dentabone, that may be used to help prevent plaque build up. They can be quite helpful for dogs that are active chewers.