

# Home dental care for pets

## Help keep your four-legged friend's teeth and gums healthy.

It would be sweet if pets could take care of their own teeth, but they can't. Give them the help they need at home to protect against dental and gum disease, which has been linked to diseases in other parts of the body, including the heart and kidneys.

## Brushing is a great start, but it's just the beginning

Although brushing is typically the most effective, there are many other ways to promote your pet's oral health, such as dental chews, sprays, and gels. Ask your veterinary team about the best options for you and your pet. Be sure to acquire these products from your hospital to ensure that you get the best product for your pet.

### Toothbrushing

Pets who begin having their teeth brushed when young will usually tolerate this activity as they mature. Pets of all ages can learn to accept their teeth being brushed, but you should never persist if your pet becomes stressed or anxious.



### Dental chews

Many types and flavors of chews are available for dogs and cats. Chews keep the tooth surface clean and help prevent bacteria from building up. Some also keep your pet's breath fresh.



### Water additives

Additives mixed into your pet's water help reduce bacteria and plaque accumulation.



### Sprays and gels

When applied topically to the teeth and gumline, sprays and gels reduce bacterial buildup. They may also help keep your pet's breath fresh.



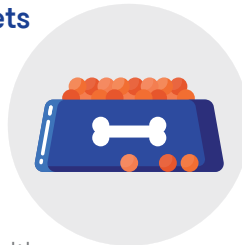
### Dental wipes

Much like toothbrushes, dental wipes physically remove plaque, bacteria, and food particles.



### Therapeutic diets and treats

Your veterinary team may recommend specific diets and treats, which help improve dental health.



## Keys to success

- Make a plan and stick with it.
- Consistently follow recommendations from your veterinary team.
- Use only pet-approved toothpaste, and never human toothpaste as it contains ingredients that are harmful to pets.
- Praise your pet frequently while and after brushing his or her teeth.
- Don't be discouraged if your pet will tolerate only brief brushing—some is better than none.



### ► Take an active role against gum disease.

Regular home dental care, along with professional cleanings, can help stop gum disease and tooth decay before it starts.