



ORAL HYGIENE FOR YOUR PET

The right diet

Diet can be a major factor in the development of plaque and tartar.

Dry food, biscuits and abrasive diets can aid the removal of plaque. Canned foods may contribute to plaque build-up and subsequent periodontal disease.

Specially treated chews are available and can be used in addition to toothbrushing and can also be helpful for cases where you are unable to brush your pet's teeth.

Introducing teeth brushing into your pet's routine

Begin by restraining your pet by gently holding it around the muzzle. Lift the lip to expose the teeth.

Day 1 Gently stroke the outside of your pet's cheeks with your finger only (no brush) and slowly lift the lip for about 30 seconds. Give your pet praise and a small treat at the end of every day's session.

Day 2 Repeat as above and also place a small amount of toothpaste on the end of your finger and let your pet sample it.

Day 3 As day 2, but this time gently run your finger or finger toothbrush and a small amount of toothpaste over your pet's teeth for 30 - 45 seconds.

Day 4 As day 3, adding 15 seconds time to running your finger or finger toothbrush over your pet's teeth.

Day 5 If all is going well, run your finger over the teeth for 30 seconds and then gently insert the toothbrush and again run over the teeth for 30 seconds.

Day 6 As day 5 but increase the time by 30 seconds.

Day 7 By now you should be aiming to spend at least one minute on each side of the mouth.

How to be successful

Be patient. Take time with the process or else your pet may resist.

Always praise your pet. Praising will make them more receptive.

Remember to always put a small amount of animal toothpaste on your finger or toothbrush. Your pet will like the taste and will associate it, the praise and the treats with toothbrushing. Note that human toothpaste is for humans and not for pets.

If your pet shows any sign of aggression stop immediately and call us for further advice.

Contact:

ARK VET CLINICS

Coatbridge, 479-481 Main Street, Coatbridge, ML5 3RD Telephone: 01236 432448
Holytown, 14 Main Street, Holytown, ML1 4TA Telephone: 01698 732858