



DENTAL HOME CARE FOR YOUR CAT



Brushing your pet's teeth daily, or at least 3 times per week, is essential in maintaining proper dental health.

KITTY DENTAL FACTS:

- Signs of dental problems include: bad breath, yellow-brown crust on the teeth, bleeding from the gums, difficulty eating, abnormal drooling, dropping food from the mouth, swallowing food without chewing, losing teeth, and pain when the mouth is manipulated.
- Cats get cavities too, called Feline Oral Resorptive Lesions (FORLs). The majority of cats with FORL may salivate excessively, bleed from the gums, and have difficulty eating.
- Broken teeth and fractured tooth tips are common and should not go untreated. Extraction or root canal therapy are routine treatments.

SEEING IS BELIEVING:

Watch Dr. Douglas Dean demonstrate brushing a cat's teeth.



1 Acquaint Your Cat With The Process

For the first few sessions, don't use a toothbrush. Hold your cat in your lap and gently stroke the outside of his/her cheeks with your finger. After your pet is comfortable with that, try rubbing your finger along the gums. Next, place a dab of pet toothpaste on your finger and let him/her taste it.



2 Introduce The Toothbrush

Place a small amount of pet toothpaste on the toothbrush. In a slow back-and-forth motion, brush one or two teeth and the gum line. This gets your cat accustomed to the feel of the brush.



3 Begin Brushing

Over the next several days, gradually increase the number of teeth brushed. It is important to eventually brush the rear teeth where plaque and tartar have a greater tendency to accumulate. Slowly and gently pull open the cheek with your fingers to reach the back areas. Stop brushing before your cat begins to fuss. If he/she learns to dislike the procedure and figures out that fussing makes you stop more quickly, then brushing is going to get harder rather than easier. Concentrate only on the outside surfaces of the teeth (towards the cheek). Cats accumulate very little tartar on the insides.



4 Make Brushing a Pleasurable Experience

Proceed slowly and gently. Stop each session while it is still fun and lavishly praise your cat afterwards with petting and treats. Patience, dedication, and snacks may be necessary! For optimum oral hygiene, brush your cat's teeth every day.



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LEARN MORE:

Dental Home Care



What is Dental Disease?



Why Your Pet Needs a
Vet Dental Cleaning



Why Your Pet Needs
Anesthesia During a Vet
Dental Cleaning



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GIVE THEM THE BEST

Check out Dr. Douglas Dean's recommended
cat dental products.

