

Brushing Your Dog's Teeth

The daily brushing process should be pleasant for both you and your pet. Many pets enjoy the added attention while many owners look forward to the close quality time spent with their companion animal.

The supplies you need are a finger brush or a soft toothbrush and doggy toothpaste (**NEVER use human toothpaste**). Most animals accept brushing very well if they are introduced to the procedure in a calm and patient way. The best way is as follows:

Day 1: Gently pet and scratch the muzzle, slowly lifting the lip for about 30 seconds. Reward with a treat at the end of the session.

Day 2: Repeat as above except gently run your finger over your pet's teeth for 30 to 45 seconds. Reward and praise again.

Day 3: Repeat Day 2, adding 15 seconds time to running your finger over your pet's teeth. Always reward with praise and treat.

Day 4: If all is going well, insert the finger brush over your index finger and then gently insert into your pet's mouth and rub the teeth for about 30 seconds.

Day 5: Repeat as above and increase the time the finger brush is in your pet's mouth by 30 seconds.

Day 6: Repeat as above, adding a small amount of the CET dentifrice to the finger brush and gently pass it over the teeth.

Day 7: You know your pet best of all. If you feel that he/she is accepting the brushing well, gradually increase the brushing time until you are able to spend at least one minute on each side.

At any time that your pet is resistant, stop and wait until the next day. If your pet is still resistant, contact our office and our technicians will be happy to assist you.

Helpful Hints

- Be patient. Take time with the process or else the pet may become resistant.
- Praise your pet. It's a new experience and praising your pet will make him or her more receptive.
- Reward your pet with treats at the end of each session. Remember, always make it fun!
- Stop immediately if your pet shows any signs of aggression. Call the hospital for advice.
- *Human toothpaste is for humans and NOT for pets.* It is common for human toothpaste to cause stomach problems and even vomiting.
- Brushing the teeth at home will decrease the frequency of professional dental care.
- Remember, always make it fun!