

Cove pet care information

Top dental care tips: Give you pet the “perfect” smile!

Dental disease affects up to 80% of pets over the age of three. The best way to manage your pet’s dental health is through preventative care. A good nutritionally balanced diet and dental treats may help combat poor dental health. But regular tooth brushing with a veterinary recommended enzymatic toothpaste is a much more effective way to preventing dental disease. This can easily be incorporated in your weekly routine to achieve those pearly whites. Even though it can be tricky at times, most pets will learn to enjoy their regular teeth brushing.

How do I know whether or not my pet has a dental problem?

One of the first signs of dental disease is usually bad breath. This is caused by the build up of plaque and unhealthy bacteria within the mouth. Other possible signs to look out for may include: inflamed gums, bleeding gums, excessive salivation/drooling, difficulty/reluctance to eat, tartar, or missing/broken teeth.

If you have noticed any of these signs, it would be advisable to go and see your vet today.

When should dental care start for my pet? And how should I get started?

Generally, the earlier the better. Most Veterinary practices will offer free dental checks with a Registered Veterinary Nurse, or a good time to talk to your vet about how you can start a good dental care program at home would be at an annual health check.

With some help from your vet, they can give you some tips and tricks on how to best brush your pet’s teeth properly. There are different brushes available on the market which your pet may prefer over others. Be sure to try a couple for yourself.

Can poor dental health lead to other problems?

Although poor dental health can be identified in the mouth, it can also affect other parts of the body including the heart, kidneys, gastrointestinal tract, and joints. The build up of tartar and excessive bacteria growth can spread to other parts of the body via the blood stream. With regular dental care, some of these problems can be prevented.

If my pet already has poor dental health, what can be done?

Don’t worry, your vet will be happy to advise you on the options available depending on the severity of the dental disease. This may range from a simple scale and polish to keep the teeth nice and clean to possible extractions. These procedures would be performed under general anaesthesia.

With a good dental care routine in place, your pet can enjoy a long, healthy life with the “perfect” smile.