

Good oral hygiene consists of:

1. Daily brushing of your pet's teeth is the gold standard. Brushing with pet oral gel or toothpaste helps remove plaque and reduce bad breath.
2. Dental chews help to remove plaque especially from the back teeth and the inner surfaces. They can also contain ingredients that repel plaque formation. Bones are not recommended due to their risk of breaking your pet's teeth or causing an upset stomach or obstruction.
3. Dental diets are specially formulated dry food that is designed to remove plaque as your pet eats. Some also contain toothpaste-like ingredients to fight the plaque.
4. Professional dental scale and polish is often required every 6-12 months even with good home care. A general anesthetic is required for this.



My Pet's Dental Plan

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!



Your vet and nurse will help you tailor a dental plan for your pet to include:



- **Daily brushing of your pet's teeth**
(ask for a free demonstration)

- **Daily dental chew**

eg: Oravet, Greenies, Dentastick or Dentabites

- **Dental diet**

eg: Specially formulated dental food

- **Next complimentary Dental Check**
(every 6 months)

- **Next Dental Scale and Polish**
(every 6-12 months)

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Keep your pet's teeth healthy

*At Woodend Veterinary Centre
we prioritise your pet's
oral hygiene*

"Did you know that 80% of dogs and cats older than 3 years of age have dental disease?"



Pet oral health



Just like in people, pets can develop dental disease. Over time plaque, which is a colourless film that contains bacteria, builds up on your pet's teeth. If not removed, the plaque hardens into tartar, which leads to gum infection resulting in dental disease and tooth loss. Bacteria from dental disease can also travel through the bloodstream to affect your pet's heart, kidneys and liver. The good news is that preventative oral care can reduce plaque and help maintain your pet's oral health, improving their general health and quality of life.

Causes of dental disease

Poor oral hygiene:

Just like we brush our teeth daily and visit the dentist, pets need dental care everyday at home and regular dental checks every 6 months.

Breed:

Smaller breed dogs and certain breeds of cats are more susceptible to developing dental disease as their teeth are often overcrowded.

Age:

Dental disease is more common as pets grow older as a result of a lifetime of plaque and tartar accumulation. Our pets are living longer and regular dental care is required to help their teeth last the distance.



Signs of dental disease

- Bad breath
- Tartar (yellow-brown crust) on teeth
- Gingivitis (red gums that may bleed)
- Loose teeth
- Tooth loss
- Excessive drooling
- Painful mouth
- Change in eating or chewing habits

It's a good idea to have your vet examine your pet's teeth every 6 months, just like we visit the dentist. In fact, we believe in this so much that we offer your pets a free dental check every 6 months at our clinic!

Dental Grading System



Grade 0 (normal)



Grade 1



Grade 2



Grade 3



Grade 4