

## DENTAL CARE

Have you ever fallen asleep watching T.V. and not had a chance to brush your teeth? You wake up in the morning and your teeth feel fuzzy and your mouth tastes sour. That occurs after not brushing just one time.

Now imagine not brushing for 2, 4, 6, or even 10 years. That is where your dog or cat's mouth could be now.

National studies show that 85% of pets over the age of three have significant dental disease. This has been shown to not only cause problems in the mouth like gingivitis and tooth loss, but also the bacteria from an infected mouth has been linked to serious health issues like kidney, liver, and heart disease. Dental disease is the most common disease in dogs and cats today and can easily be avoided. Many options are available for pet owners to help keep their pet's mouth healthy. There are pet foods specially shaped and formulated to help clean your dog or cat's teeth. There are dental chews and rinses, and you can brush your pet's teeth. Pet toothpastes come in several pet-friendly flavors like chicken, beef, and seafood. They are formulated to be edible since pets cannot spit toothpaste out like we do. Yearly dental cleaning benefits pets just like people. Pets are not as cooperative as we are about holding their mouths open to let the dentist work, so they must be under general anesthesia. This is the best and most thorough way to make sure that all the plaque and tartar has been removed from your pet's teeth. This also gives you a clean slate to start from if you are beginning home dental care later in your pet's life. At your next annual check up, talk to your veterinarian about a dental care routine for your pet.

It is never too late to help your pet get a healthy mouth!

Link to video on how to brush your pets teeth <http://www.virbacvet.com/cet/focus/>

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