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What color should my dog's gums be

What colour should your dog's gums be. What color pink should my dog's gums be. What color should my dog's gums be pictures.

Your dog climbs up for their nightly snuggle, and you suddenly notice that their breath is bad enough to knock you out! You know gum disease can be a common issue for dogs, but you don't know what to look for or what's normal when it comes to dog gums. Here are all the details of what to check, from the way your dog's gums should feel to what color they should be. Signs of Healthy Gums in Dogs Healthy dog gums look a lot like healthy people gums. For the most part, a healthy dog has gums that are bubble-gum pink, or even salmon pink. Some other dog breeds have naturally dark-colored or spotted gums, and this can be normal for your pet. However, if their gum color changes over time, that may be concerning. Normal gums are moist and slippery. There should be no odor when you get near your dog's mouth, and you shouldn't see any swelling, lumps, or bumps. Healthy, pink gums on a dog (Photo Credit: Sandra Mitchell, DVM) Signs of Unhealthy Dog Gums Unfortunately, a lot of things can go wrong in a dog's mouth. Taking note of what has changed, even taking photos, can be very helpful to your veterinarian. In most instances, if you notice changes in your dog's gums, whether they happen suddenly or over time, it's time to have it checked out. Tacky / Dry Gums Gums that are tacky and dry are often a sign of dehydration. Sometimes, when your dog has been panting hard, their gums may be drier than usual. If you are unsure, let your dog settle down and rehydrate, then check when they are ready to nap. If the gums are now moist and slippery, it's likely that all is well. If they're still dry and tacky, it's time for a trip to the veterinary hospital, especially if you notice any other symptoms, such as lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, or lack of appetite. Red Gums Bright, cherry-red gums indicate a true emergency. Some common causes include carbon monoxide poisoning, heatstroke, hypertension, certain poisonings, and shock. An excited or hyper dog that was just playing outside may also have red gums, but these should fade to the normal pink color quickly. If your dog has bright red gums and hasn't been overly excited recently, this is cause for concern, and an immediate trip to the emergency veterinarian is in order. If your dog has small red splotches on their gums or non-hair parts of their ears or belly, this is often an indication of a coagulation problem and is considered an emergency. A red line that runs along the gumline is likely inflammation from dental disease, which can wait until your vet has an available appointment. Red gums with tartar on the dog's teeth (Photo Credit: Sandra Mitchell, DVM) Pale / White Gums Pale gums are also cause for concern. Most commonly, these indicate anemia, but they also can indicate pain or shock. A dog that has lost a lot of blood will also have pale gums. This is not usually a temporary thing that will resolve with observation, but an indication of a true problem. If your dog has been injured recently or is not feeling well, take them to the veterinary hospital immediately. If the signs are milder, they should still be seen, but you can likely wait for the next available appointment. Dog with pale gums (Photo Credit: Sandra Mitchell, DVM) Yellow Gums A yellow color to the gums is an indication of a condition called icterus, which often points to either liver problems or destruction of red blood cells. Icterus is something that should always be taken seriously and should prompt an immediate veterinary visit. If you are not sure if your dog's gums are yellowed, check their lips, inner portions of the ear, or whites (or in this case, yellows) of the eyes for yellow as well. Gray / Blue / Purple Gums Any form of gray or blue is a sign of a life-threatening emergency that needs to be addressed immediately by an emergency vet. These colors are often seen with heart disease or heart failure, problems breathing, pneumonia, asthma, low blood pressure, hypothermia, some types of poisoning, or choking. Swollen Gums Swelling in the gums in dogs is very common and often associated with dental disease, particularly when the swelling is most prominent along the gumline. This is called gingivitis, or inflammation of the gums, and sometimes the gums will be raw enough to bleed. Some dogs with this type of inflammation will be in pain, and they should be seen promptly. Dogs can also develop a firm swelling of the gums, called gingival hyperplasia, which often affects almost all the tissue in the mouth. It's sometimes so severe it can be difficult to locate the teeth. If your dog has injured their gums, this can cause temporary swelling. However, if other tissues in the mouth are also swollen (such as the tongue or lips), this is of immediate concern and should be addressed quickly. Most dogs with swelling of the gums can be seen when your vet has an appointment available, as long as they seem to be feeling fine and are eating normally.



Bleeding Gums Bleeding of the gums is usually caused by gingivitis that has become irritated by eating hard kibble or chewing a firm toy. Some puppies will bleed when they are teething and playing rough with a chew toy or tug toy. The bleeding can also be caused by an injury. If there is only a small amount of blood (or just blood spotting) that stops quickly and your dog seems to be feeling fine, this can likely be monitored at home. If it is happening frequently, there's a lot of blood, or the bleeding doesn't stop quickly, your dog should be seen by a vet right away. Bad Breath Bad breath is most commonly called halitosis and is the result of bacteria in the mouth and on the teeth. The odor is an indication of dental disease, and when severe, it may indicate a more advanced form of dental disease called periodontal disease, where the underlying bone is involved. Although halitosis is not considered an emergency, your dog could have an uncomfortable or painful mouth, so this should be addressed as soon as possible. Other mouth odors can also be the result of diabetes or kidney disease.

If your dog doesn't seem well, is eating poorly, or is lethargic, this should be considered an emergency and they should be seen immediately. If no other signs are present and all seems well, halitosis can be addressed on a non-emergency basis. Gum Overgrowth Overgrowth of the gums is not common and may even have a genetic cause, although some drugs can trigger it.

It's called gingival hyperplasia, and it's most commonly seen in Boxers, Bulldogs, and Cocker Spaniels. This firm swelling of the gums can be localized or affect all of the visible gum tissue in the mouth. The gums may also be red or inflamed and so swollen that it's hard to find the teeth. In most cases, this condition can be addressed on a non-emergency basis unless the bleeding is severe. Receding Gums Receding gums are often caused by plaque and tartar buildup on the teeth. This results in bacterial buildup underneath the gumline, making the gums, and eventually the dog, unhealthy. Most commonly, this is referred to as periodontal disease. It is a very aggressive form of dental disease in which the bacteria can invade the bones that support the teeth, weakening the connections and resulting in lost teeth and abscesses. The bone infection can result in a weakened jawbone and fractures. Sometimes a hole forms between the mouth and the nose, called an oronasal fistula, causing respiratory disease as well. In most cases, periodontal disease and receding gums need to be treated aggressively, although in many instances (unless the bone has abscessed or there is a jaw fracture), it can be treated on a non-emergency basis. Growths / Bumps / Warts on the Gums Growths, lumps, and bumps are common on the gums of dogs. However, they should all be checked out by your veterinarian, as we do tend to monitor changes in the mouth carefully. Any lump that is not the same color as the gums (e.g., pink gums with a black mass, or black gums with a pink mass), a lump that is bleeding, or one that is changing quickly over time should be checked out in a veterinary exam. Bleeding masses generally need to be addressed on an emergency basis, particularly if the bleeding does not stop quickly. Other types of masses should be examined at the first available appointment. Dog Gum Health Checklist Getting into the habit of checking your dog's mouth regularly will help you spot a problem sooner rather than later, and it will also help you learn what's normal for your dog. At least once per week, when your dog is relaxed and in a cooperative mood, take a look around the inside of their mouth for any changes. Here is the guide for what to look for: 1. Look at the color - The inside of the mouth should be about the same color as yours--a bubble-gum pink tone with a moist, slippery surface. 2. Check for



Anything that is a color different from the surrounding gums should prompt a veterinary visit as soon as you're able to get an appointment. 3. Check for swelling, bleeding, and receding gums - These signs are more concerning and may require an emergency visit. If you find an area in the mouth that looks raw, is swollen, or is bleeding and you don't know the cause, have it checked.

Causes of

PALE GUMS IN DOGS



A dog's gums change color when he's going through some illness. They could turn a variety of different colors like reddish, yellow, blue, etc.

A graphic by PetDt

1

INTERNAL BLEEDING

Your doggy could have been internally injured after a traumatic event, have ulcers, mass rupture in spleen, etc. This cause the dog's gums to look pale.



2

SHOCK

If your doggy's body has been in shock, the blood could be concentrated in specific parts of your furry friend's body and hence, there would be paleness in the doggy's gums.

3

BLOOD CLOTTING DISORDERS & RAT POISON

In some cases, the doggy's blood doesn't normally coagulate causing excessive or abnormal bleeding. Rat poison can also have the same effect on your doggy.



4

CANCER

Some forms of cancer can cause a decrease in the production of red blood cells, which cause pale gums in dogs.

5

METAL TOXICITY

Heavy metal toxicity like Zinc toxicity could cause pale gums in dogs. Zinc basically interferes with absorption of iron which is meant to produce red blood cells.

6

PARASITE INFESTATION

Parasites and fleas could cause a condition called parasitic anemia and tick-borne diseases could also cause anemia.



7

HEART DISEASE

Pale gums in dogs could be because of a heart problem. The causes a drop in the doggy's blood pressure and causes a variety of symptoms including coughing, weak pulse, rapid breathing, etc.

8

BLOATING

Pale gums appear in this case just because a stomach torsion basically just stops the blood from returning to the heart from the lower body.



PETDT
Based on an article in www.PetDt.com

Likewise, if your dog has receding gums, these may be secondary to periodontal disease. While this is not an emergency, it should be seen as a priority. 4. Check for overgrowth - Dogs will sometimes have gums that overgrow to the point of hiding the teeth. They are usually pink and healthy looking and firm to the touch, but there's clearly more tissue than there should be. These should also prompt a non-emergency veterinary visit. 5. Are they wet or tacky? - Normal dog gums are moist and slippery. Tacky gums could be a sign of dehydration, and if this persists over a few hours, it is a definite cause for worry. 6. Is there an odor? - Knowing what your dog's mouth normally smells like is helpful. Obviously, this will change, particularly if your dog has been looking for "treats" in the cat box or tasting some roadkill on your walks. But as a rule, there should be minimal odor to dog breath. If your dog's breath consistently smells bad, dental disease is certainly a possibility. If your dog also seems ill, bad breath can be an indicator of kidney disease or diabetes. 7.



Check for tartar touching the gumline - In some animals, the tartar can build up in plates and actually touch or even overlap the gums. This is very painful and can lead to periodontal disease. Dogs with tartar that is at or over the gumline need dental work promptly to keep their gums healthy. How to Keep Your Dog's Gums Healthy Healthy gums are important for dogs. Gum disease is painful and can lead to other problems in the body, such as kidney disease or heart problems. These can be caused when the bacteria in the mouth travel through inflamed gums and into the bloodstream to infect other organs. You can stay ahead of the curve by regularly checking your dog's gums. Check them at least weekly, and anytime you see or smell anything that doesn't seem right. Brushing your dog's teeth is also a very healthy habit that improves oral health. You will quickly learn what's normal for your dogs' mouth, so you can see what changes over time. Most dogs will develop some degree of dental disease as they get older. Having your

veterinarian check your dog's mouth and teeth closely at every visit, as well as any time you notice a concern, will help you catch problems before they become serious. Featured image: iStock.com/irousova Owning a dog is a big responsibility and the biggest challenge is keeping it healthy and happy. Dog health is the most important thing for every dog owner. This is why most of us panic when our dog shows changes in behavior or we notice something different in its appearance. So, we rush to the internet to find answers. Today, you happen to notice that your dog's gum color has changed. So that made you think: What is considered unhealthy and what is a healthy dog's gum color? How do I know if my dog's gums are healthy? Okay, let's talk about healthy and unhealthy dog gums. We present you the dog gum color chart that features common color changes in your dog's gums.



While the majority of dog gum color charts usually feature life-threatening conditions that make dog owners panic, even more, we figured it would be best to take a different approach to this common problem. Now, I am not denying that dog gum color change can indeed be a life-threatening condition, but there is a lot more to talk about. Dog Gum Color Chart Preview As a responsible dog owner and veterinarian, my pet's health is my top priority. I highly recommend that all owners occasionally check their dog's gums. To help keep track of healthy and unhealthy dog gum color, I decided to make a quick dog gum color chart. So, here it is — a quick dog gum color chart preview to help start our journey: Dog Gum Color What It Means What To Do PinkNormal Give your dog a hug! Pale pinkAnemia, blood loss Take your dog to the vet WhiteFungal infection, tooth abscess, shockTake your dog to the vet Yellow Jaundice, liver problems, gingivitis Take your dog to the vet RedCarbon monoxide poisoning, heart problems, gingivitisTake your dog to the vet BlueSuffocation, smoke inhalationTake your dog to the vet BlackNatural pigmentation, tumors Take your dog to the vet As you may have noticed, each dog gum color change requires a trip to the vet. That is how important it is whenever we notice that our dog's gum color has changed. It is something that should not be overlooked — dog gum color change requires an immediate veterinary check.

Why Dog Gum Color Is Important Dog gum color is often overlooked by dog owners. Now, let's change that because dog gum color is a very important sign of its overall health condition! Not only does dog gum color show different states of hydration, but it also shows whether or not a dog is suffering from a certain disease. Yes — as a worried owner you can tell if your dog is sick by looking at its gum color! But in that case, a sick dog should be observed for more signs than just the gum color alone. Before we begin, let me just say that your dog's health can be tracked through the color of its gums! What Color Are Gums In A Healthy Dog? Pink color! Before we learn more about unhealthy dog gum color, we should talk about healthy dog gum color first. Dog gum health is indicated by its color which usually ranges from pale pink to bubble gum pink.

Any other than that dog gum color is considered troublesome. Depending on the hydration state, normal dog gums can vary in shades of pink but they should usually stay pale pink. Don't be confused because some dog breeds have pigmented gums. So, you can see shades of black, blue, brown, and purple on healthy dogs' gums. This is simply a breed-specific thing.

Like blue tongues in Chow Chows (their gums are also pigmented). What Color Are A Sick Dog's Gums? Let's talk about some serious stuff — sick dog's gums. If you happen to notice any gum color except pale pink, you will likely have to schedule a vet appointment. Keep an eye out for the following colors of your dog's gums: • Red • White • Yellow • Blue/purple But, don't panic, okay? It is good to notice if a sick dog's gums change color because you can act as soon as possible and have your dog get checked. What Do Unhealthy Gums Look Like In A Dog? Let's get right into the unhealthy dog gums that are telling you to take your dog to the vet as soon as possible. We have prepared a whole specter of possible dog gum colors that indicate different health problems.

Make sure to check them all out to find out if your dog is sick or not. 1. White Gums White gums in dogs can appear because of several reasons and not all are life-threatening. However, if you happen to notice white gums in your dog, do not wait to inform your veterinarian. When compared to red dog gums, white gums may not seem so dangerous. But more often than not, white gums in dogs require a veterinary health check. Here is what could be causing your pooch to have white gums: Tooth Abscess If the discoloration only affects a small portion of the dog's gums rather than the entire surface, then we may be dealing with a tooth abscess. When your dog's tooth becomes infected, there is a high chance that an abscess (collection of pus) will develop. A structure called a draining fistula frequently develops along the gum line to release the infection's strain on the dog tooth's root. This will appear as a white or yellow cyst near the dog's gums or gum line. Fungal Infection Dog's gums that are white and painful, especially white lesions, will feel sensitive and unpleasant. If you detect white gums in your dog's mouth, they are likely the consequence of a fungal infection and you should not wait for them to worsen. Blood Loss Usually, blood loss anemia in dogs is a result of surgery, various bleeding disorders, and internal or superficial bleeding (injuries). Besides that, blood loss can occur as a result of a variety of factors, including trauma and severe parasite infestation from fleas and ticks. Blood loss can be life-threatening and should always be treated as an emergency, so contact your veterinarian right away if your dog is bleeding. Anemia One illness that could make your dog's gums appear lighter is anemia, for instance. What happens during canine anemia? Well, red blood cells that carry oxygen throughout the body are decreased and your dog may experience trouble bleeding due to oxygen deprivation (extreme cases like canine Babesiosis). The most blatant and typical clinical sign of anemia is pale pink or white gums. Other symptoms of anemia include weakness, lethargy, low appetite, and shortness of breath. Shock Shock in dogs is caused by low oxygen in the body that is linked to insufficient blood supply. So, when there is a lack of proper blood supply and blood flow, cells and organs within the dog's body do not receive enough oxygen and nutrients to function properly. In other words, shock is a life-threatening condition caused by a sudden decrease in blood flow through the dog's body. Shock can be caused by a variety of factors, but it is most commonly associated with trauma, such as car accidents. Shock can be fatal if left untreated, so seek immediate veterinary attention. Kidney Disease Kidney disease in dogs can be linked to chemical intoxication, bacterial infections, ingestion of toxic foods and poisons, and so on. Many factors can cause kidney disease in dogs, but it can also be hereditary. Bacteria from periodontal disease can enter a dog's bloodstream, especially if the gums are inflamed and serve as an "access point." This bacteria can harm not only the kidneys but also the heart and liver. Progressive dental disease can be the leading cause of a dog's kidney disease. One of the many functions of the kidney is the production of a hormone that is called erythropoietin. This hormone has a very interesting function — it gives orders to the bone marrow to produce more red blood cells. So you know what happens when a dog's kidneys don't work properly? Erythropoietin can't be produced normally which means your dog's body will lack normal red blood cell count. That said, one of several possible symptoms of canine kidney disease is pale gums (caused by anemia). 2.

Yellow Gums Yellow gums in dogs might signify several additional life-threatening conditions in addition to gingivitis. Whenever someone mentions "yellow gums in dogs" the first thing that comes to mind is jaundice (icterus). But, it doesn't have to be. It depends on what kind of yellow gums we are talking about. If the yellow is very bright and even changes to orange, then it is most likely the case of canine jaundice. However, if the yellow is pale, then it can be a sign of something less serious than jaundice, like gingivitis. Canine Gingivitis Canine gingivitis is indicated by a slight yellow tint or film on your dog's gums. Gingivitis is commonly associated with inflamed and swollen gums too, so you can expect the yellow to turn into a cherry red. This is a common condition that can be treated with a trip to the vet who will perform dental cleaning and help maintain your dog's dental health. A yellow sore, on the other hand, could be an indication of a viral infection, an ulcer, or periodontal disease. Jaundice In Dogs Jaundice in dogs is recognizable by a bright to deep yellow discoloration of the dog's gums, as well as genital area and nostrils.

High concentrations of bilirubin (which is a normal bile pigment) are to blame for jaundice. This pigment derives from hemoglobin (found in red blood cells) that breaks down. Jaundice in dogs can be a result of liver disease, liver obstruction, or a blood clotting condition. You must ascertain the source of your dog's illness before attempting to treat the jaundice symptoms at home. Right now, your best option is to take your dog with yellow gums to the veterinarian. 3.

Red Gums Red gums in dogs are a red flag! Bright red or cherry red gums are a no-no in the canine world. If you notice red gums, make sure to call your vet. When the color of your dog's gums is red, then you should assume it is suffering from the following health conditions: Tartar Build Up Tartar accumulation on the dog's teeth is the root cause of gum disease. Tartar builds up on your dog's teeth and irritates its gums if you don't frequently brush them and clean them in between them. The tartar build-up makes your dog's breath smell bad and once it progresses to a whole infection, then your dog might not want to eat at all. It becomes very painful as gums start to bleed. Wet dog food is usually the culprit of creating tartar on your dog's teeth. This is because wet dog food only slides through your dog's mouth, while dry dog food scrapes the accumulated tartar and, in a way, cleanses your dog's teeth. Gum Disease Red gums in dogs are a sign of infection or inflammation. They'll probably be sensitive, and they might

be inflamed when you touch them. Gum disease is often called canine periodontal disease and it causes quite a mess in your dog's mouth. Carbon Monoxide Poisoning If your dog breathes in carbon monoxide, a deadly gas, chances are it will find itself in a life-threatening condition. Carbon monoxide poisoning in dogs is a very serious and acute health problem that needs immediate veterinary intervention. Carbon monoxide is a deadly gas with high toxicity that can kill your dog. If they are improperly placed, broken, or poorly maintained, common home heating and cooking appliances may emit carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide poisoning in dogs is followed by high blood pressure, heat stroke, trouble breathing, and lethargy. 4. Blue Gums Do not ignore blue gums in dogs! They are almost always an emergency. Why did I say "almost"? Well, because some dogs have dark pigmentation in their gums that is natural to them. However, this natural pigmentation occurs on different parts of the dog's gums. In this case, blue gums are completely colored pale blue to purple, which is not good. Cyanosis Blue gums in dogs may indicate internal bleeding, however, cyanosis is most likely the cause. Gums that appear blue because of a lack of oxygen are called cyanosis. This is a clear indication of gum disease and other potential health issues. A medical disorder called canine cyanosis can make a dog's skin and mucous membranes turn blue. When red blood cells are unable to transport enough oxygen throughout the body, it occurs. Canine bloat, respiratory or heart disease that is underlying may frequently cause the disorder. Circulatory problems might result in blue patches on the gums. The color of the gums can also be altered by several medicines.

A similar thing will occur if a person consumes metal salt poisoning. 5. Black Gums Black gums, like different skin tones, are natural and healthy and are the result of hereditary variances in pigmentation. Even a dog's tongue color can be black or spotted! There are numerous other symptoms you can check for to determine whether your pet is ill, even though dark-colored gums can obscure one sign of heart or lung issues. Black gums can be an issue if your dog naturally doesn't have black-colored gums. They may indicate the presence of tumors and growths on the gum tissue or inside the bone. What Color Do Dogs Gums Turn When Dehydrated? When a dog is dehydrated, its gums are pink, but a very pale pink color. Dehydrated dog's gums feel sticky to the touch and they don't look as shiny as they used to. Dehydration is characterized by deep red, sticky gums, which in the heat can also be a precursor to heat stroke. You should look out for other signs that show your dog is dehydrated. Besides gum color change, your dehydrated dog will show signs of lethargy, loss of skin elasticity, brittle and dry coat, dry nose, and sunken eyes. Dehydrated dogs are more likely to pant, especially when in a car. What Do A Dying Dog's Gums Look Like? While white and pale gums can be a sign of anemia and blood loss, they can also be a sign that your dog is dying. If your dog is dying due to a certain disease, then its gums can be blue, purple, or yellow. However, the dying dog's gums progress into a pale color that turns white to gray.

What Color Are Dog's Gums If They Have Been Chewing On Something? Depends on what a dog has been chewing. When dogs chew, there is higher blood circulation in their gums so it is normal for them to be an intense pink color. However, if your dog happens to develop red gums when chewing on something, it is time to take that something away from it. Chewing on different objects may cause injuries for dogs that can lead to gum bleeding and irritation. For example, chewing on a basic branch can make a wound within your dog's mouth, and that tiny wound can get infected which can lead to a more serious problem, like gingivitis, stomatitis, and periodontal disease. So, make sure that your dog chews on something soft that is safe for its teeth and gums. What Color Are A Dog's Gums When They Are In Pain? Red usually indicates inflammation which equals pain. So, red gums are a sign that your dog is in pain — its gums hurt whenever it tries to chew. Blue gums can also mean that your dog is in pain because they represent a lack of oxygen and your dog may find breathing a chore. Blue gums in dogs can also be a shade of purple that can indicate health issues.

If you notice a black growth on your dog's gums then you may want to call your vet to see what that is. How To Check Your Dog's Gum Color You can check your dog's gum color at home with a very simple trick that all veterinarians do — the capillary refill time check (CRT). To make it more simple, dogs' gums are made out of tiny blood vessels (capillaries) that are packed with blood! Simply lift up your dog's upper lip and apply pressure on its gums. When you apply pressure to your dog's gums, that spot turns white but it immediately turns back to its healthy pink color. This is called the capillary refill time. Each animal species has a different capillary refill time — a dog's CRT is 1.5 seconds. This means that it normally takes 1.5 seconds for your dog's capillaries to fill in the blood in its gums after you have applied pressure. If it takes longer than 2 seconds, then that indicates low blood flow and might mean that your dog has an underlying health condition that needs to be checked by a vet.

Conclusion Dog gum colors can change due to various health issues, but they can also change if the dog is dehydrated. The dog's gum color chart is a very neat tool that helps owners monitor their dog's health. Because any dog gum color change represents a possible health problem, it should not be overlooked. That said, you should call your veterinarian whenever you notice a change as it is described in this dog gum color chart. It is better to be on the safe side and to ask your vet what might be happening to your dog if its gum color has changed.

As a responsible dog owner, your dog's health is your main priority so make sure to check its gum color! Related Content Dog Poop Color Chart: Full Guide To Your Dog's Stool Dog Tongue Color Chart: What Color Is A Sign Of A Healthy Dog? Dog Urine Color Chart: What Does My Dog's Pee Color Mean?