



DOGBOXX DENTAL FAQs

How do you clean canine teeth?

I use an [Ultrasonic brush](#), which is silent and doesn't vibrate. I hold this over the tooth to break up plaque. I then use an orange stick or dental pick to remove the softened plaque. I also use a canine toothpaste. If needed I combine this with squeezy cheese or pate as encouragement.

What are you qualified to do?

I have taken a 5 module, CPD accredited [online course](#) in Oral and Dental Canine Health. This has prepared me to spot the signs of dental and gum disease, to understand basic oral health conditions and treatments and to offer basic first aid for some dental emergencies.

I am obviously not a vet, so cannot diagnose or offer treatment for any health condition. The dental treatment is designed to prolong the time between veterinary interventions, not replace it. The treatment can't reach under the gums or thoroughly clean the backs of the teeth.

Where do you do it?

I'll come to your home. I'll normally sit in your kitchen or bathroom. Somewhere that can be wiped clean afterwards.

Do I need to be there?

Not necessarily; some dogs may actually be calmer if they can't see their owner. It's entirely up to you.

How long does it take?

This depends on the amount of cleaning needed and on the dog's cooperation. Anywhere between 20 minutes and an hour might be needed.

If the dog is very resistant or starts to show signs of distress during the treatment I may need to make a second visit at a later date to finish treatment.

How much does it cost?

£65 for existing DogBoxx clients

£75 for non DogBoxx clients

£25 for a house call where no treatment takes place.

Why does it cost more for a non DogBoxx client?

DogBoxx dogs already know and trust me and are likely to be more open to being handled by me.

What do you mean by a 'house call where no treatment takes place?'

I will not carry out treatment if I find advanced levels of decay, any sign of dental disease or any other signs of bad oral health where a cleaning could cause pain or damage. In these instances I will advise a visit to the vet.

I will also not continue with a cleaning if the dog is very resistant to treatment to the point of distress or where I may accidentally hurt them or be hurt myself.

Are you insured?

Yes, I am fully insured through AXA.

How do you clean your tools?

I use peroxide solution, Milton solution and boiling water. All tools are sterilised between uses and thoroughly rinsed to remove traces of cleaning solution.

My dog hates things in his mouth. Can you still clean his teeth?

I am absolutely happy to try. The brush is often tolerated because it doesn't move or make a noise. Even if the following dental pick isn't welcomed, at least the plaque has been softened and will be more likely removed by the dog chewing something.

If your dog completely refuses to be cleaned, I'm afraid I still charge £25.

My dog has a lot of built up tartar. Can you still clean his teeth?

Yes, as long as the tartar hasn't started to cause dental or gum disease. If this has progressed too far, a full veterinary clean would be advisable.

My dog has diabetes/kidney disease /heart disease, can you still clean his teeth?

This should be fine but please check with your vet first before booking an appointment.

How long will it last?

This depends on how often you are able to clean your dog's teeth with a brush or chewing. You may notice a gradual build up of plaque after 3-6 months if they do no chewing/brushing; 9-12 months if they brush/chew a little.

What should I be doing at home to help my dog's teeth stay clean?

Encouraging your dog to accept their mouth being touched is the first step. If you are familiar with your dog's natural breath smell and gum colour then you'll be quicker to spot changes that could indicate a health problem.

Introduction of a toothbrush or muslin cloth for gentle cleaning or to rub canine toothpaste around the mouth is also a great start.

Dental chews are useful. Look for the more natural versions that are often lower calorie. There are also rubber chews designed to clean teeth.

Be wary of raw bones, tennis balls or stones that can break teeth. Never offer cooked bones or sticks that can splinter.

What are the signs of dental decay that I should watch out for?

Bad breath, excess drooling, red gums, hesitancy to eat or be touched around the mouth, excess lip licking, obvious tartar build up.

What other signs of bad health can I spot in their mouth?

Pale gums can indicate dehydration, very red or purple gums can indicate heat stroke.

Yellow gums can be a sign of a problem with the kidneys, as can breath that smells of urine or ammonia.

Very fishy breath can be a sign of tooth decay but also of an issue with their anal glands.

In very rare instances, red or purple spots on the gums can be a sign of a blood or heart issue and needs immediate vet attention.

Ultimately, any noticeable changes should be flagged with your vet.

Do you also clean cat's teeth?

Currently no. Cats have knives for hands and hold a grudge a lot longer than a dog.

Do you have other questions? Please contact Lydia on 07561351360 or lydia@dogboxx.org.