

ZOETIS PETCARE

Pet Dental Checklist

Keeping your pet's teeth and gums clean and healthy can help to prevent dental disease and other serious health problems down the road.



Get more tips and advice on how to keep your pet happy and healthy on zoetispetcare.com

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Dog

- BRUSH THEIR TEETH DAILY**
Use a canine specific toothbrush (or a clean piece of soft gauze) and pet-safe toothpaste. Place the brush at a 45° angle cleaning in small, circular motions.
- PROVIDE APPROPRIATE CHEW TOYS**
If you can't easily indent the toy or break it, it's probably too hard for their teeth.
- CHECK THEIR MOUTH OFTEN**
Gums should be pink (not white or red), with no signs of swelling. Teeth should be clean, without any brownish tartar.
- OFFER DENTAL TREATS AS NEEDED**
Your vet can recommend treats, chews, or diets to help keep their teeth clean between brushings.
- SCHEDULE YEARLY PROFESSIONAL CLEANINGS AT YOUR VET**
Regular dental check-ups and cleanings help prevent the onset of periodontal disease (among other medical issues).

Cat

- BRUSH THEIR TEETH DAILY**
Use a feline specific toothbrush (or a sponge toothbrush) and pet-safe toothpaste.
- WATCH THEM EAT**
Watch to see if your cat is dropping food, having difficulty chewing, only "crunching" on one side, or drooling while eating.
- CHECK THEIR BREATH AND MOUTH**
Check for bad breath, which may be a sign of dental disease or another health issue¹. If your cat allows, check in their mouth for swelling or discoloration of the teeth, tongue, or gums.
- OFFER DENTAL TREATS AS NEEDED**
Your vet can recommend treats, chews, or diets to help keep their teeth clean between brushings.
- SCHEDULE YEARLY PROFESSIONAL CLEANINGS AT YOUR VET**
Regular dental check-ups and cleanings help prevent the onset of periodontal disease (among other medical issues).

Preparing for Their Dental Cleaning

A yearly anesthetized dental cleaning with your veterinarian is just one step to ensuring a healthy mouth for your pet. Here's what to know to be prepared before and after the cleaning.

BEFORE

- Discuss your pet's medical history with your vet and bring any medications or relevant documents with you.
- Your vet will give you exact instructions, but you may be asked to withhold food the evening prior to reduce your pet's risk of vomiting during the procedure.
- Expect to drop your pet off early to get them settled in and have their pre-anesthesia exam.

AFTER

- Your vet may prescribe pain medication, antibiotics, or a recommended dental diet with chews, or toothpaste.
- Your vet may recommend feeding them soft food for several days to aid the healing process.
- Once they're discharged and at home, you may notice some drooling or drowsiness for several hours. Don't hesitate to call your vet for advice.

1. Barko, Patrick. Halitosis. BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Gastroenterology. 2019. British Small Animal Veterinary Association.