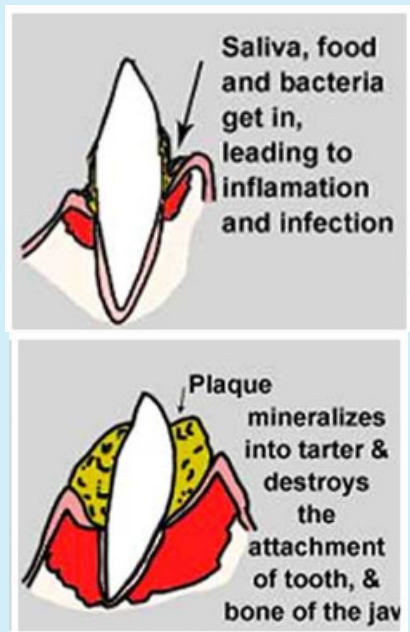


Expect your pet to need a professional cleaning every year, and expect general anesthesia to be necessary for each tooth to receive proper attention and care. The professional cleaning performed at the veterinarian's office is similar to what you receive at your dentist. It is important to note that "non-anesthetic" teeth cleaning is not comparable to the above service. It is not possible to perform the multi-step cleaning in a pet without general anesthesia. Cosmetic cleanings do not address periodontal disease where it occurs: under the gum line.



In short, if regular home care is not performed, plaque will mineralize in the gingival sulcus, accumulate, and destroy the attachment of the tooth. The tooth will be lost and the jaw bone can potentially break or even disintegrate (a serious problem in very small dogs).



Dr. Andrea Wernham

Veterinary Dental Practitioner

The Veterinary Dental Practitioner (VDP) program was established by Dr. Brett Beckman, a board-certified Veterinary Dentist, to provide training for General Practice veterinarians that want to provide a high level of dentistry for their patients. They are well-qualified veterinarians in General Practice to provide safe and proper oral care to your loved ones. However, they are not board-certified specialists.



DENTAL HOME CARE

Presqu'ile Animal Hospital

46 Price Edward St. Unit 11
Brighton, ON Canada

Call or text: 613-475-5510
info@presquileanimalhospital.com

For more details, visit our website
www.presquileanimalhospital.com



Dental homecare is necessary to maintain good oral health. Professional scaling and polishing of teeth, although highly effective, is not sufficient to keep your pet's mouth healthy on a long-term basis as plaque can form in 24 hours, calculus in 3 days, and gingivitis can start in 2 weeks.

Dental homecare is divided into active methods (tooth brushing and wipes) and passive (dental diets, chews and water additives). Without a doubt, the most effective methods are active, however the compliance of owners performing this type of hygiene is low (1%), making passive methods superior simply due to the fact that they are actually performed.

There are numerous products available, but only a few have scientific evidence that they produce any health benefit. The Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC) lists products that meet standards of effectiveness in controlling dental plaque and calculus in dogs and cats (www.vohc.org).

We have summarized the VOHC-approved dental homecare products that we recommend.

It is NEVER recommended to give your pet bones, cow hooves, antlers, nylon toys, ice cubes or other similar hard objects due to the risk of fracturing the tooth.

Dental Diets

Purina DH Dental Health; Royal Canin Dental or Hills t/d

Dental diets use several techniques to help reduce plaque and tartar. The first is that the kibbles are very large which means the pet must chew them before swallowing them. Some dental diets have additives to help reduce plaque formation.



Dental Chews

**VeggieDent for dogs
Greenies Dental Treats for cats**

The daily addition of tested dental chews was proven to reduce plaque and calculus accumulation as well as gingivitis and halitosis (bad breath). The action of chewing stimulates saliva production which when combined with the mechanical forces applied to the dental surfaces, helps flush away debris, food remnants, and helps to detach deposits.



Water Additive

Vetradent



When Vetradent enters the pet's mouth, its binding agents immediately attach to the magnesium, calcium and iron, and wash them away – effectively removing the bacteria's food source and weakening the tartar.

Tooth Brushing and Tooth Paste:

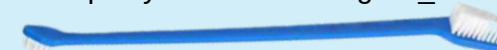
C.E.T. Enzymatic Toothpaste Studies have shown that brushing three times a week was adequate to maintain healthy teeth and gums but daily brushing was needed to control existing gingivitis. Tooth brushes made specifically for pets will better fit inside their mouths. Finger tooth brushes are available for smaller pets.

Tooth brushing do's and don'ts

- Don't use a human toothpaste on your pet.
- Do use a toothbrush without any paste at first so that your pet may get used to the object in the mouth before having to contend with flavor.
- Don't attempt to clean the inner surface of your pet's teeth. Natural saliva cleans this surface on its own.
- Do try to perform dental home care at least once daily.

How to Brush Teeth:

https://youtu.be/vEwRugD4t_M



Other Resources:

<https://www.toothythomson.ca/pet-parent-resources>

Some pet insurance companies provide funds annually for dental cleanings!

<https://www.petsecure.com/en-CA/blogs/Why-Dental-Health-Is-Important-Cats-Dogs>