

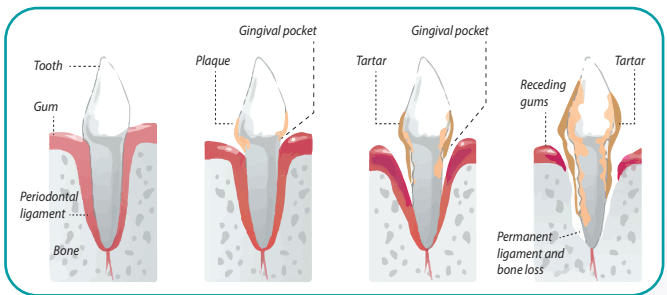
Preventing Dental Disease in Your Pet



Periodontal disease

Periodontal disease is the most common dental problem in adult pets. It is the result of a process that occurs every day that will decay, over time, the bone, gum tissue and ligaments that hold teeth in place.

Every day a thin film known as plaque forms over the surface of the teeth. Plaque is made up of food particles, saliva and bacteria. If plaque is not removed gingivitis develops, seen as reddened or inflamed and sometimes bleeding gums. **Plaque needs to be removed daily.**

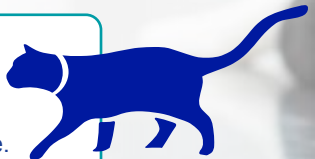


Left undisturbed, plaque eventually mineralises to form hard, solid yellow-brown deposits over the teeth (this can happen within days!). These are called calculus or tartar and are difficult to remove. Tartar provides a hiding place for bacteria, where they are protected from daily cleaning.

These bacteria multiply and the immune system within the gums must constantly work to remove this ongoing infection. Over time, permanent damage to the supporting tissues occurs. This resulting damage leads to more areas or pockets forming where bacteria hide from daily cleaning and the cycle continues.

Did you know?

By age three, over 80% of dogs and 70% of cats show signs of dental disease.



Your pet's teeth

Your pet's teeth help them eat, play, and explore every day. Without regular care, dental disease can cause:

- Bad breath (halitosis)
- Infection
- Affect their ability to enjoy food
- Inflammation (gingivitis) or receding gums
- Discoloured or loose teeth
- Excessive drooling

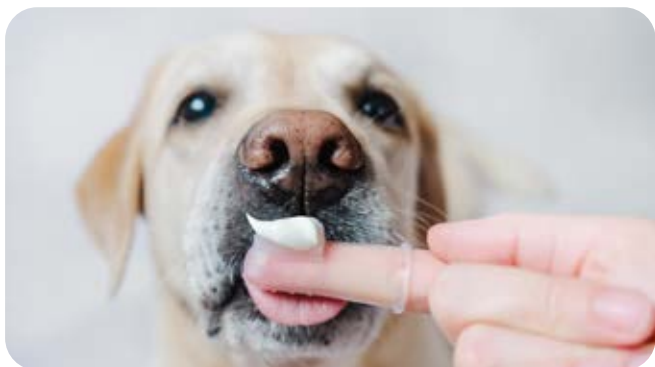
Poor dental health can lower your pet's quality of life and may even impact their life expectancy.

Daily brushing is the gold standard for preventing dental disease.



What can I do to prevent dental disease?

As periodontal disease causes irreversible damage to the teeth, **prevention is better than treatment**. Here are a few things that can be done at home to keep your pet's teeth healthy and prevent the need for a veterinary procedure:



BRUSHING TEETH – This will require some training but can be achieved by slowly building up your pet to accepting a brush. Use pet safe flavoured toothpaste (never human toothpaste).

DENTAL ADDITIVES – Added to drinking water or food, these products contain enzymes and antibacterial ingredients to help reduce plaque, tartar, and bad breath.

DIET – Premium kibble with high-quality ingredients and a unique shape encourages chewing, helping to clean teeth. Added to a mixed wet and dry diet, it supports balanced nutrition and superior dental health.

TREATS OR TOYS – Choose vet-approved products that are suitable for your pet size that are large and firm enough to promote chewing.



**Cleaner teeth
for better health.**



Types of Teeth

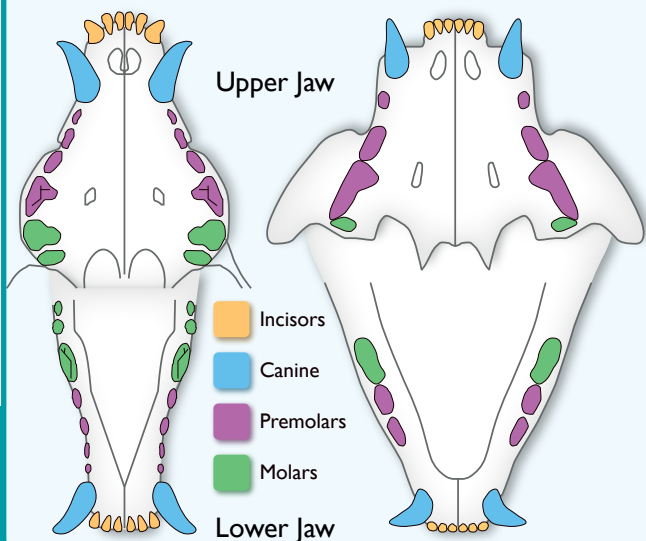
Dogs and cats have four different types of teeth, each with a specific purpose:



- INCISORS** - The small teeth at the very front, used for nibbling and picking things up.
- CANINES** - The long, pointed “fangs” at the corners of the mouth, used for gripping and tearing food.
- PREMOLARS** - Found behind the canines, with flatter surfaces for cutting food into bite sized pieces.
- MOLARS** - Found at the very back of the mouth, used for grinding, crushing, and chewing food.

**CANINE
DENTAL CHART**

**FELINE
DENTAL CHART**



Meeting your pet's needs

Your pet's good health starts with everyday dental care. Their teeth are vitally important to their wellbeing and, as they are used every day, they must be cared for daily.

Regular veterinary visits, at least once a year, should include a dental checkup to ensure your pet's mouth stays healthy, catch any problems early, and keep them comfortable and happy.

Your veterinarian can recommend the best prevention and treatment plan for your pet. They are the trusted professional to meet your pet's needs and help prevent dental disease.



Ask your veterinary staff for suggestions about a balanced diet and improved dental homecare for your pet.



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