



# Dental facts for pet parents!

## Something to chew on: facts and tips on caring for your pet's teeth during Dental Health Month — and all year round!

More evidence is emerging that suggests a link between a healthy mouth and a healthy body in pets. Studies in dogs have shown a correlation between the degree of periodontal disease and changes in distant organs including the heart, kidneys, and liver. Here are just a few helpful facts and tips that will help you and your pet enjoy a happy, healthy life together — shiny teeth included!

- It only takes 48 hours for plaque (removable with toothbrush) to calcify and turn into tartar (which does not come off with brushing). 
- Approximately 80% of dogs over the age of 3 years have gingivitis or periodontal disease.
- Periodontal disease is the most common disease in dogs and cats.
- Keeping your pet's teeth healthy may help to maintain overall health.  Talk to us about scheduling a teeth cleaning for your pet.
- Dogs have 42 adult teeth and cats have 30 adult teeth.
- Decreased appetite and chewing tendencies may be due to painful teeth.
- A broken baby tooth with exposed pulp can cause tetanus in puppies.
- The "carnassial" teeth are large, functionally important chewing teeth in the back of the mouth. Carnassial, literally interpreted, means "tearing of flesh."
- Chewing on ice cubes, rocks, and bones can break your pet's teeth. 
- Daily brushing may help to save teeth, prolong life, and decrease the number of anesthetic dental cleanings needed by your pet.
- The Veterinary Oral Health Council  provides a seal of acceptance for veterinary diets, treats, and water additives that have been shown to decrease plaque or tartar.
- The mouth is the 4th most common site for tumors in the body.
- Small-breed dogs are prone to early onset periodontal disease, leading to pain and tooth loss.
- Even puppies and kittens benefit from a thorough oral exam to check for normal tooth eruption and normal bite.
- If you can't brush your pet's teeth, consider special dental diets and treats to decrease plaque and tartar. Contact us to see what we recommend for your pet. 