Caring for your pet’s teeth and gums is vital to their ongoing health and prevents foul-smelling breath, chronic pain and infection. Your pet’s teeth and gums should be checked at least once a year by a veterinarian to look for early signs of problems.

We recommend practicing oral homecare to keep your pet’s mouth healthy in between routine professional dental cleanings.

**ORAL HOME CARE INCLUDES:**

- **A Daily Teeth Brushing**
  - Child’s Soft-Bristled Toothbrush (extra-long handle works best) and/or Dental Wipes or a Finger Toothbrush

- **Veterinarian-Approved Pet Dental Products**
  - Pet Toothpaste - *Human Dental Products are Toxic!*
  - Dental Food, Chews, & Treats
  - Antiseptic Rinses or Water Additives

**CHOOSING THE RIGHT PET DENTAL PRODUCTS**

Ask your veterinarian. There are thousands of dental home care products that claim to decrease your pet’s plaque or tartar. Choose products and food that have been awarded the Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC) Accepted Seal.

**ROUTINE VETERINARY CHECKUPS & CLEANINGS**

Oral homecare is not a replacement for regular veterinary checkups and thorough professional dental cleanings. Dental cleanings are an essential part of your pet’s annual care to assess and treat any problems or diseases.
Position you and your pet comfortably

Gently lift your pet’s lips to expose teeth

Rub your finger gently over your pet’s teeth and gums to acclimate them to the motions

Put a small amount of pet toothpaste on your finger and gently glide across their teeth

Replace your finger with a bristled brush with toothpaste at 45 degree angle across the gum line

Proceed in a circular pattern and build up to 30 seconds on each side of your pet’s mouth

Remember to brush the upper and lower teeth

Brushing too hard can lead to gingival damage

Reward and praise often

Ask a family member to help

Remain patient with your pet

Cotton-tipped applicators can be used to partially wipe away the daily accumulation of plaque

Cats are more receptive when the applicator is dipped in tuna water