

# Dental Care

Summer Hill Village Vet, 29 Grosvenor Crescent, Summer Hill 2130



As a loving and responsible pet owner it is important to know that a regular dental care routine is essential for your dog or cat. It's important to start early to get your furry friend used to the routine, as well as prevent serious dental disease from setting in. By 3 years of age over 80% of dogs and cats are likely to have some degree of periodontal disease. In many cases these are painful conditions to have and costly to treat. Sometimes the damage is even irreversible, resulting in bone and tooth loss.

Here are some ways you can ensure you give your pet the best chance of having a healthy mouth:

- Daily feeding of oral care treats such as *Greenies* (daily use is essential to achieve meaningful results)
- Introducing a dental specific diet to your pet such as *Hills T/D dry food*: a larger sized kibble that doesn't crumble and requires chewing, helps plaque to be scrubbed away from the tooth.
- Daily brushing of your pet's teeth using pet specific toothpaste (DO NOT USE HUMAN TOOTHPASTE - we stock *pet* tooth paste). When it comes to choosing a toothbrush we recommend finger brushes, gauze swabs or squares of nylon stocking wrapped around your finger, or baby toothbrushes. Please ask us how to start gradually brushing their teeth - don't expect your pet to love it first time!
- Monthly checking of your pet's mouth (keep a look out for plaque/tartar build up in the form of yellow teeth, redness and swelling where the gum and teeth meet, foul smelling breath and tooth cracks/chips).
- Use "Maxigard" this is like mouthwash for pets and reduces the adherence of plaque to the teeth, it's very helpful for gingivitis
- Raw bones can be great BUT there are some significant risks with raw bones too so ask us for advice on safe feeding



*Bad breath is often a sign of dental problems, if you notice your pet has a stinky mouth then don't hesitate to book for a dental check up before it gets worse!*



*Dental treats are a convenient way to look after your pet's teeth. We stock a selection of 'Greenies' dental treats for cats and dogs at our clinic.*

Visit your vet for dental checks twice yearly and book your pet in for professional cleaning (which involves general anaesthetic) as needed which can once or even twice a year.