

# February is National Pet Dental Health Month.



## Keep your pets' teeth healthy by doing the following:

**Brush your pets' teeth.** Brushing pets' teeth regularly will provide them with the greatest chance of having strong and healthy teeth and gums. We know that your furry friends might not like the idea of tooth brushing, so some tips to help for a smooth at home brushing includes:

- Using a yummy flavored toothpaste
- Letting them lick the toothbrush and toothpaste before trying to brush their teeth
- Brush gently from the front to the back
- Only brush for one minute
- Always praise and reward your pet during and after brushing

**Visit your veterinarian for teeth cleaning.** At home teeth brushing can be intimidating, so if you are having trouble doing so at home, make sure to schedule routine teeth cleaning at the veterinarian.

**Feed your pet a special dental diet.** Larger, dry pieces of dog or cat food is good for breaking away plaque on their teeth. The large kibble pieces require them to chew hard and produce more saliva which helps protect the mouth.

**Offer appropriate chew treats.** There are a variety of dental chews and treats on the market which are helpful for preventing plaque buildup on your pets' teeth.

**Use Dental Tooth Wipes.** Tooth wipes are a great solution for cleaning pets' teeth. They work similar to toothbrushes, with the ability to get into the nooks and crannies of the teeth, without the hassle of a physical toothbrush and toothpaste.

**Learn more!** The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) offers more tips and step-by-step instructions on how to teach a dog or cat to accept a daily tooth brushing. Use following link to find out more.

[www.avma.org/events/national-pet-dental-health-month](http://www.avma.org/events/national-pet-dental-health-month)



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