



## **HOW TO BRUSH YOUR DOG'S TEETH**

Get your pet adjusted to the reality that you will be touching the mouth, teeth and gums. This may require several days of gentle massaging of the outer mouth, and eventually slipping your finger into the pet's mouth along the gumline.

Start slow and let your pet dictate the amount of time that you massage the outer mouth. This should be done when both you and your pet are relaxed. Possibly while you are sitting on the floor watching television, you can encourage your dog to lay next to you with their head on your lap. Do this often in short sessions for at least 3 to 5 days.

Once your pet has grown comfortable with you at the outer mouth, slip your finger into the mouth alongside the gums. Try this one side of the mouth at first, and then go back to gently massaging the outer mouth. Since your pet has already become comfortable with the outer mouth massage, this will relax him/her after the inner mouth massage. You should perform this step for several days as well.

Next, using the CET enzymatic dental paste, place a small amount onto your finger and allow you pet to view this as a treat. Once your pet licks this off your finger, this step is complete. You should do this once or twice daily for several days.

Now that your pet has grown accustomed to viewing the toothpaste as a treat, place a small amount onto your finger and slip your finger into the side of your pet's mouth and rub the toothpaste along the tooth/gum surface of one side of the mouth. Make sure to reward you pet with your voice. This will signify to your pet that he or she is supposed to let you do this and it is good. This step may take up to 14 days to develop. It is important to take your time, be consistent and patient. Make sure that this process is performed on both sides of the mouth.

Once the pet has become accustomed to this entire process, it is now time to introduce the toothbrush. The best results come when you can repeat the entire process. In other words substitute your fingers for the toothbrush. Always use the CET toothpaste on the toothbrush to help ease the acceptance of the toothbrush. Praise your pet after each session.

Remember, do these steps in frequent but short intervals. Eventually, you can extend the period of time of brushing the entire mouth once daily for the life of the pet. It is recommended that you spend approximately 20 to 45 seconds on each side of the mouth,

and 10 seconds on the front teeth of the mouth. Since plaque and tartar accumulates more on the rear upper molars, make sure to concentrate on this area.

By brushing your pet's teeth daily, you can ensure a healthy oral cavity. A healthy oral cavity can reduce other related diseases that can detract from the overall health of your pet. Not to mention kisses from your pet are much more enjoyable when their breath is fresh.

Please feel free to call us with questions at 843-824-8044 or visit us on the web at [www.creeksidevetclinic.com](http://www.creeksidevetclinic.com)

