



# EAST FREMANTLE VET CLINIC®

## Oral care

Dogs' teeth are deciduous like ours. This means puppies will lose their 'baby' teeth and adult teeth will grow in their place.

Start brushing your puppy's teeth as early as possible so she begins to accept it as a normal part of life.

### Step by step guidelines for brushing your puppy's teeth

#### **Step 1**

Introduce a brushing program to your puppy gradually. Avoid over-restraining your puppy and keep brushing sessions short and positive. A small puppy can be held in your lap. Praise and reassure your puppy throughout the process.

#### **Step 2**

Start by dipping your finger into a chicken flavoured pet toothpaste solution. Rub the toothpaste covered finger gently over your puppy's mouth and teeth. Make the initial sessions short and positive by praising your puppy when you finish.

#### **Step 3**

Gradually introduce gauze over your finger and gently scrub the teeth in a circular motion.

#### **Step 4**

Finally, you can introduce a toothbrush designed for dogs. Special pet toothbrushes are available from your veterinarian or specialty pet store. There are toothpastes designed for dogs that come in chicken or other flavours rather than the mint flavours designed for people.



TIPS

- Human toothpaste should never be used on dogs as it is not very palatable to them. It is designed to froth up and be spat out and may cause a stomach upset
- Avoid feeding pets table scraps because they can increase the build up of plaque and tartar, and can lead to other health problems
- Methods for maintaining oral health that can be used in addition to, or as a less preferred substitute for, brushing are:
  - Having your dog's teeth checked at least once a year at your veterinary clinic
  - Feeding a specialist oral care food, e.g. Hill's Science Diet™ Canine Oral Care formula which will help to control plaque and keep your dog's mouth clean and healthy
- Practise handling techniques around your puppy's mouth. This will help her feel more comfortable to have her teeth brushed.



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