

TOOTH BRUSHING GUIDE FOR DOGS



Brushing your dog's teeth regularly is a great way to help prevent gum disease and keep his teeth and gums healthy.

By introducing tooth brushing very gradually, you'll help him learn to enjoy the experience.

You'll need:

- Dog toothpaste – (don't use human toothpaste)
- Clean hands and short nails – for your dog's safety
- Water
- A pet toothbrush with medium bristles
- A quiet area with few or no distractions
- Patience

A few important tips to help get you started:

- Keep each session short – around 2-3 minutes
- Repeat each stage on five separate days before moving to the next one
- Every dog is different – so train at your dog's pace and give lots of praise
- Once you have progressed to brushing the whole mouth, you will need to use around 3 pea size nodules of toothpaste in total to cover the left, right and front of mouth

Take care inserting your fingers into your dog's mouth. We don't recommend doing this with aggressive dogs or dogs that are prone to biting.

Stage 1: Introducing the taste of toothpaste

1. Wash your hands and smear a small amount of toothpaste on to your index finger.
2. Allow your dog to lick the toothpaste from your finger.
3. Repeat several times.

Stage 2: Getting used to something in his mouth

1. Smear your index finger with toothpaste.
2. Gently rub your finger over the outer surface of the teeth and gums.
3. Only go as far into the mouth as your dog is happy with.
4. Repeat several times.

Stage 3: Introducing the dog toothbrush – canine teeth first

1. Wet the toothbrush with water and smear with toothpaste.
2. Let the dog lick some of the toothpaste off the bristles to get used to the feeling.
3. Gently hold his mouth around the muzzle to stop him chewing the brush.
4. Bridge your dog's nose and lifting the lips, gently brush the canines (the big, pointy teeth) up and down. Start by angling the brush towards the gum line and brush away from the gum to the tip of the tooth.

At this stage, avoid the front teeth (incisors), as this is the most sensitive area in the mouth.

Stage 4: Brushing the back teeth

1. As before, brush his canine teeth up and down.
2. Slowly move along to the teeth behind the canines, using a circular motion.
3. Only go as far as your dog is happy with.
4. Brush both sides of the mouth.

Stage 5: Brushing all of the teeth

1. As before, brush the canines, then the back teeth and finish with the incisor teeth.
2. To brush the front incisor teeth, hold your dog's mouth closed around the muzzle and gently lift the upper lip with your thumb and forefinger, bridging the muzzle to reveal the incisor teeth. (Many dogs are sensitive and may sneeze when having their incisor teeth brushed.)
3. Gently brush the front teeth up and down.
4. Gradually build up the amount of time spent brushing.
5. For maximum protection, brush your dog's teeth every day.

HAPPY BRUSHING!

