



A Monthly e Magazine
ISSN:2583-2212
Nov, 2023 3(11), 2980-2982

Popular Article

Canine – Dental Care

B. Deepika¹ and Manju G Preedaa¹

¹Assistant Professor

Department of Veterinary Physiology and Biochemistry,
Veterinary College and Research Institute, Theni - 625 534.

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10212060>

Introduction

Dogs are carnivores in nature. Their dentition reflects their meat-eating evolutionary history. Pet dogs obviously turned into omnivores since most dry dog foods contain considerable amounts of plant material.

Dentition

Deciduous

$\frac{3 \ 1 \ 3}{3 \ 1 \ 3} = 14$

Permanent

$\frac{3 \ 1 \ 4 \ 2}{3 \ 1 \ 4 \ 3} = 21$

Upper fourth premolar and lower first molar are carnassial or shearing teeth.

Do Animals Need to Brush Teeth??

We all know how important is brushing teeth every day. It is our daily routine. Same way the oral health of our pets also important.

Generally, animals don't need to brush. The major reason why animals don't need dental care is their diet. Many animal species spend a lot of time chewing their food, mostly fiber rich which cleans their teeth naturally. Animals mostly chew on sticks, bones, wood and grasses, and this helps them to clean their teeth after a big meal.



Since animal's diet is free of acids or sugars, no need to worry about cavities and dental caries as we do. Another reason is that animals have a shorter life span than us, so they don't attain that age when they need dentures.

Nature always has a way to take care itself and that's the reason why animals can keep their teeth healthy even though they don't brush teeth at all.

Pet Dental Care

Pets do need dental care. Many dogs show signs of gum disease as they grow older. Normal dog's breath isn't fresh smelling. However old dogs need proper mouth care, bad breath is first sign of dental problem.

Signs of oral disease:

- Bad breath
- Gum bleeding
- Fragile teeth
- Oral ulcers
- Loss of appetite
- Excessive drooling

These are the alarming signs that you need to take him to a vet. To avoid these problems cleaning teeth of your pet is necessary.

Brushing

Avoid using human toothbrush and toothpaste for dogs. Our tooth paste is an irritant for dogs and they need a brush with very soft bristles.

- First step is to familiarize your pet with having her teeth brushed. Massage her cheeks, gums and tooth for 30-60 secs twice daily for a week.
- As your dog seems comfortable being massaged this way, put a little bit of dog-formulated toothpaste and water on her lips to get her acclimate to the taste.
- Next, introduce a toothbrush designed especially for dogs-it should be smaller than ours and have softer bristles.
- Finally, apply the toothpaste to her teeth for gentle brushing. Remember brushing too hard can hurt his gum.
- Place the brush at a 45-degree angle to the teeth and clean in small and circular motions. Lift her lip gently whenever required.



- The side of the tooth that touches the cheek usually has the most dirt accumulated, and giving a final downward stroke can help to remove it. If your dog doesn't like to touch the inner surface of the teeth, just leave it.

Once you get the technique, go for brushing twice a week.

