



Are You Noticing: BAD BREATH? Slobber? STAINED TEETH? Bleeding gums? A SORE MOUTH?
Difficulty eating? A LOST TOOTH? Pawing at the mouth or smacking the gums?

DENTAL DISEASE is common, especially in small dogs, older dogs & cats & all those with shortened snouts.

Food + saliva + bacteria make a slimy **PLAQUE** that sticks to teeth.
[Add sugar & you may also get

This plaque will harden into **TARTAR** or **CALCULUS**

Ultimately **jaw bones & gums** develop deep infections [**Osteomyelitis, Gingivitis**], teeth become painful and health

To keep your pet's teeth and gums clean and healthy:-

First, we clean those teeth & fully assess the health of the mouth.

Once dental disease has become established, periodic veterinary prophylaxis under anaesthetic will be needed. Festers, tartar & rotten teeth do require professional attention
We can extract loose broken or diseased teeth, scale away calculus, deep clean gums & exposed tooth roots, pack gum pockets with an immunostimulant, & polish the tooth enamel.
We keep a photographic record, take x-rays where advisable & give that mouth a fresh start.

Then, **HOME-CARE** can regularly remove plaque,

This will minimise gingivitis & may prevent or at least delay the return of calculus & periodontitis

What you can do.

1. Diet: **Textured Dental Foods** Hills Prescription TD provides a balanced and complete diet while massaging & cleaning both teeth and gums. Use it as a fulltime diet, to replace a few meals each week, or in place of dog biscuits & other 'treats'.

Other Dental Diets contain polyphosphates which impede the hardening of plaque into calculus; these won't clean the teeth or reduce halitosis but may reduce the severity of dental disease.

Plaque Off sprinkle is an iodine-rich marine extract that concentrate in the saliva to denature plaque.

2. BRUSH the teeth: use a soft brush, in a circular motion, to sweep the enamel and cleanse the gum pockets.

Try **finger toothbrushes**, a kid's toothbrush, or our **doublesided** range, dependent on the size & temperament of your pet.

Don't use human toothpaste, it can be very harmful if swallowed. Pet toothpastes are safe, taste good & do clean teeth. They minimise both plaque & tartar & can be safely swallowed

3. DISINFECT: Suitable products used between meals can have a long-lasting effect during the day

Maxiguard Dental Gel can replace toothpaste. It contains a long-acting oral disinfectant, [chlorhexidine] as well as Zinc Ascorbate to retard plaque. It can also be finger-smear along the gumline & onto any inflamed, tender areas, reducing infection & halitosis.

Chlorhex **Dental Spray** can be applied from a distance if the dog, cat or owner prefers to avoid close contact! It can also be applied to make-up removal pads and massaged across teeth & gums [great for cats!]

Aquadent, added to drinking water, freshens breath, augment other plaque control regimes, & may be sufficient to offset / reduce low grade dental disease.

4. Dental TREATS may help. These are not 'balanced' and should not be offered more than once daily.

Some [e.g. Hills 'Oral Care'] are effective & reputable, others less so.

Dental toys and rawhide chews can be coated with tooth cleansers, pastes or gels. But many should be used only under supervision, especially long lasting chews which may get stuck in the mouth or bowel.

5. Raw food diets, bones & chicken wings can cause mouth and bowel damage and are not of any proven benefit in controlling dental disease. Their use is risky & Vets cannot recommend them. Pigs Ears & Rawhide only really help if coated with dental enzymes or polyphosphate.

And we can regularly monitor progress, Inspections each 3 or 6 months, sooner if needed, will ensure the treatment plan is successful