

Pet Dental Care: Why It's Important and How to Do It Right

[Dental health](#) is just as important for pets as it is for humans. Many pet owners don't realize that their furry friends are susceptible to the same dental problems as people. That's why it's important to brush your pet's teeth regularly and take them to the veterinarian for regular checkups. In this blog post, we will discuss the importance of pet dental care and teach you how to do it right!

The teeth of your pet are just as important to you and deserve the same care. At BOCA Dental Group in Fort Lauderdale, there's a team ready for anything from routine cleanings & x-rays all the way up through specialty procedures such as braces or implants!



THE IMPORTANCE OF DENTAL HEALTH

When it comes to keeping our pets healthy, pet parents often overlook the importance of oral hygiene. One of the best (and easiest) indicators of oral disease is bad breath. Some pet parents believe that bad breath is something pets naturally have and consequently, often goes unnoticed and untreated.

It may not always be fresh, but your pet's breath also shouldn't be bad enough to make you gag. It's easy for many pet parents to overlook the importance of promoting good oral hygiene.

WHY DENTAL HEALTH IS IMPORTANT.

Every pet parent wants his or her beloved pet to have excellent oral hygiene. Four reasons how poor dental care can affect your pet's overall health:

Tooth Loss: If structures supporting your pet's teeth become infected, the teeth fall out.

Oral Pain: Severe dental disease can be very painful for cats and dogs. Keep an eye out for the tell-tale** signs.

Organ Damage. Bacteria in the plaque can enter the bloodstream and spread to the heart, kidneys, and liver. This spread, called bacteremia, can damage organs and make your animal sick.

Tips for Better Dental Health in Dogs

Keeping your dog healthy includes taking care of oral hygiene. Taking care of your [dog's teeth](#) and giving them a healthy diet can decrease their risk of oral diseases later on. Untreated dental disease can cause tooth loss and other painful infections in your dog's body.

1. The Breath Test

Bad breath can be a common sign of oral disease in your dog. It's natural for your dog's breath not to smell great. But if your dog's breath is overwhelming, it may be caused by periodontal disease or decaying teeth.

2. Lip Service

Checking in on your dog's gums and teeth every few weeks will help you know what's going on in their mouth. Their gums should be pink. If they are white, red, or swollen, you might want to schedule a visit to the vet. Their teeth should be clean without brown tartar buildup.

3. Signs of Oral Disease

Dental disease can cause a lot of pain in your dog. After years of tartar, plaque, and bacteria build-up, your dog could have an infection, inflammation, or decaying tooth. Dogs often don't show pain, so it may go unnoticed. If your pet is increasingly irritable and lethargic and doesn't want to eat, it may be a sign that they have oral disease.

4. The Lowdown on Tooth Decay

Tooth decay can happen over time. It starts with plaque building up and hardening into tartar. Untreated tartar and plaque buildup below the gumline can be difficult to remove and damages the tooth.

Untreated tooth decay and infection can lead to periodontal disease. This can be life-threatening to your dog. Brushing regularly and managing your dog's oral health can prevent tooth decay.

5. Canine Tooth-Brushing

Brushing your dog's teeth might not be something you're aware you need to do. But it can be a great way to prevent plaque buildup. Unlike humans, you don't need to brush your teeth daily. Your dog may not like having its teeth brushed at first, but making a routine out of it and getting them excited can help.



Routine dental care for your pet is one of the most important things you can do to keep them healthy. It's also something that is often overlooked or put off until it's too late. By starting early and being diligent about maintaining your pet's oral health, you can avoid serious problems (and expensive vet bills) down the road. Plus, who doesn't love a dog with fresh breath? If you have any questions about how to properly care for your pet's teeth, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#). We would be more than happy to help!