



SAN TAN CANINE TRAINING NEWSLETTER

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Dental Care 8 tips to keep your dog's mouth healthy

Most people think dental health is simply a cosmetic issue. But it's much more than that. Periodontal disease is any inflammation or infection of the teeth, gums, or related structures. It's caused by a number of bacteria and their toxins. Left untreated, these toxins damage the teeth, gums, and supporting tissues. With time, teeth will loosen, become painful, and eventually fall out. The toxins can also spread via the bloodstream to other organs in the body, including the kidneys, liver, GI tract, lungs, and heart. Fortunately periodontal disease is very easy to prevent and treat. Here are eight tips for keeping your dog's teeth and gums in tiptop shape.

1. Have your dog's teeth professionally cleaned by your veterinarian as often as needed. Most dogs need their teeth professionally cleaned at least once each year. Others, especially larger breeds, may only need the procedure done every few years, while many smaller breeds need their teeth cleaned more frequently, usually every three to six months. While many people do not like the thought of having a dog anesthetized to clean the teeth, a holistic approach to anesthesia makes it very safe for virtually all dogs, including seniors.
2. Brush your dog's teeth as often as possible. Ideally it should be done every day, but do the best you can. Use the appropriate sized toothbrush for your dog's mouth, and a dental product such as a toothpaste or gel recommended by your veterinarian. Don't use human toothpaste. If your dog won't let you brush his teeth, ask your veterinarian for help.
3. If you have a puppy, start brushing his teeth while he is young even if you think he doesn't need it. It will train him to accept this important procedure throughout his life.
4. Various dental products can minimize the buildup of bacterial plaque on your dog's teeth. Oxyfresh has great dental solutions and dental gels.
5. A good natural diet will keep your dog's entire body healthy – including his teeth and gums.
6. It is important when giving your dog bones to match the proper size of bone to your dog's teeth. Bones occasionally splinter and get lodged in the mouth or throat, or result in fractured teeth. Follow your veterinarian's guidelines when it comes to offering your dog fresh meaty bones.
7. Choose the appropriate chew toys for your dog as well. Once again, these are designed to prevent fractured teeth.
8. Examine your dog's teeth and gums at least once a week. If any teeth are missing or fractured, contact your veterinarian for advice. In many instances you will be referred to a specialist in dental care. Veterinary dentist offer the same procedures your personal dentist offers you, including root canals and other advanced procedures designed to save your dog's teeth.



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