



# Orleans Veterinary Hospital

Your best friend's best friend.

## How to brush your pet's teeth

Just like humans, dental care is an important part of your pet's overall health. Here's a step-by-step guide to keep those chompers sparkling white at home.

### 1) Start brushing your pet's teeth early. 8-10 weeks old is best.

If you brush every day, your pet will become familiar with the routine when their permanent teeth erupt. Please note: You may need to stop brushing while your pet loses their baby teeth. Their mouth will be sore and brushing may cause unnecessary pain. Continue once permanent teeth come in.



### 2) Work with your pet's mouth.

Be patient and make it fun! Use love and praise. Brush at the same time each day to establish a routine. Choose a quiet time, such as late in the evening or if your pet is highly motivated by food, try just before dinner. This way they will be rewarded for their co-operation.

### 3) Handle your pets' muzzle.

Work up to rubbing the teeth and gums with your finger. Put a pea sized drop of flavored toothpaste (vanilla mint, malt, for dogs and seafood, poultry for cats) in your pet's mouth and they'll begin to look forward to these sessions.



### 4) Rub the teeth gently with a finger brush or tooth brush.

Hold the brush at a 45-degree angle to the tooth and brush gently back and forth or in a circular motion. Work the area between gums to the tooth tip both inside and out. Offer rewards and treats when your pet allows you to brush.

### 5) Consider other dental aids.

A large selection of veterinary toothpastes, oral rinses and gels are available. Our veterinary team can help you select the right one. These products are designed to enhance your home dental care program but a daily brushing is best. **Avoid human toothpaste.** Fluoride and hydrogen peroxide can be harmful if swallowed.



6) Pick kibble and rubber chew toys that will help keep the teeth clean. Avoid natural bones, which are hard enough to fracture teeth. Our veterinary team can recommend a complete and balanced diet to use at feeding time.