

BRUSHING YOUR CATS TEETH



- Periodontal disease can lead to tooth loss and affects most cats by the time they are 3 years old.
- Depending on your cat's overall health, bacteria from periodontal disease can spread to affect other organs.
- Have your cat's teeth checked by your veterinarian before you start brushing them.
- Make toothbrushing enjoyable for your cat by rewarding him or her immediately after each session.
- Be very patient when teaching your cat to accept toothbrushing.
- If your cat won't tolerate toothbrushing, your veterinarian can recommend plaque-preventative products for your cat.

• **SIGNS OF DENTAL PROBLEMS:**

- Bad breath
- Sensitivity around the mouth
- Loss of appetite and/or weight
- Yellow or brown deposits on the teeth
- Bleeding, inflamed and withdrawn gums
- Loose or missing teeth
- Pawing at the mouth or face
- Difficulty chewing
- Hissing and running away from the food bowl

PERIODONTAL DISEASE- WHY BRUSH?

Depending on your cat's overall health, bacteria from periodontal disease can spread to other organs. One of the best ways to help prevent periodontal disease is to brush your cat's teeth daily, or at least multiple times a week.



Cats are never too young to start having their teeth brushed at home. In fact, the younger they are, the better. Have your cat's teeth checked by your veterinarian before you start brushing them.

Note: Do not use toothpaste for people or baking soda to brush your cat's teeth. Human toothpaste is made with ingredients that can cause stomach upset if swallowed (e.g., detergents, fluoride).

Cat toothpaste comes in different flavors (e.g., poultry, beef, fish). You may need to try a couple flavors to find the one your cat likes the best. Your veterinarian may recommend a dental cleaning to remove any existing plaque and tartar, which contribute to periodontal disease.

If your cat has severe dental disease, extraction of the affected teeth may be recommended. Follow your veterinarian's recommendation on how long to wait after dental cleaning or extraction before brushing your cat's teeth.