



## PREVENTIVE DENTAL HOME CARE FOR YOUR PET

Preventive dental home care is the least expensive and most rewarding form of home care. The goal of any pet dental home care program is to decrease plaque (bacterial film) and prevent tartar formation on your pet's teeth which can lead to inflammation of the gums and periodontal disease. Periodontal disease causes pain. Prevention of periodontal disease involves a multifaceted approach combining daily brushing with the use of diets, chews, and treats. Home care can make a significant difference in your pet's overall health and comfort. Remember, the more that you can do at home, the less will need to be done by your veterinarian.

Daily brushing remains the single most effective way to decrease plaque and tartar. Daily brushing mechanically eliminates the plaque or sticky film that forms on your pet's teeth thus preventing the development of tartar and inflammation of the gums.

For cats, we recommend the CET Oral Hygiene kit. Made specifically for cats, the small brush, gauze sponge, or finger brush is used in conjunction with the seafood or poultry flavored enzymatic gel to remove plaque before it turns into tartar.

For dogs, we recommend flavored CET toothpaste applied with the CET toothbrush, finger brush, gauze sponge, or a soft-bristled brush. For all pets, avoid using human toothpaste as it has ingredients that may be harmful to your pet when swallowed.

Brush ONLY the outside of all of your pet's teeth with the same circular motion that you use on your own teeth. Pay special attention to the gum line where plaque and tartar tend to accumulate. Don't forget to brush the teeth in the back of your pet's mouth! Remember to make it a pleasant experience for everyone. Praise! Praise! Praise!

If brushing is new to your pet, try a slower introduction. Use a treat that your pet is already familiar with and place a very small amount of toothpaste on the treat for a few weeks. Once they accept that, try getting them to take the toothpaste from your finger for a few weeks, then lick it from a tooth brush for a few weeks. Once they are comfortable licking the toothbrush slowly use the brush on some of their teeth.

**For additional instruction be sure to visit our Cinder Rock Youtube channel!**

The VOHC (Veterinary Oral Health Council) is an organization that provides an objective means of recognizing commercially available products that meet pre-set standards of effectiveness in controlling the accumulation of plaque and calculus in dogs and cats. The next page lists products that have been awarded the VOHC Seal of Acceptance. For more information see [www.vohc.org](http://www.vohc.org).