

Client's Name:

Pet's Name:

Recommended Diet:

Recommended Daily intake:



DENTAL



Nutrition for good oral hygiene in your pet

Introduction

Teeth are designed for a purpose. Dogs and cats are predominately meat eaters. Their teeth are specialised for catching, killing and eating prey. Although the majority of today's dogs and cats are fed by us and do not need to hunt, their teeth are very similar to those of their ancestors. Dogs have 42 teeth in total (12 incisors, 4 canines, 16 premolars and 10 molars) and cats have 30 (12 incisors, 4 canines, 10 premolars and 4 molars).



Teething

Puppies and kittens are not usually born with teeth. Baby teeth start to appear at 2-3 weeks in the cat and at 3-4 weeks in the dog. Teething (cutting of adult and shedding of baby teeth) starts at about 16 weeks, and is complete by about 6-7 months. It is common for puppies to seek out items to chew during this time! We recommend that you frequently handle the mouths of your young animals. This should help to increase their acceptance of teeth brushing and cleaning in the future.

What is normal?

Gums should be a healthy pink colour, with no redness or bleeding where the gums meet the teeth. Some dogs and cats have areas of pigment in their mouths, which is quite normal.

- Breath should not smell offensive – this can be a sign of dental or oral disease
- There should be no discomfort when eating
- Teeth should be white and clean, not discoloured
- Baby teeth are normally very sharp and look very similar to each other
- Adult teeth are much less sharp and are clearly differentiated into the different types of teeth. They should not drop out.

Plaque & Tartar

Plaque is a mixture of oral bacteria, food debris and proteins in the saliva, which sticks to the surface of teeth. It hardens to form calculus (tartar) and more plaque accumulates on top. This build up on the tooth hangs over the edge of the gum and creates a pocket in which more bacteria and food debris can accumulate. This leads to inflammation and infection of the gum (gingivitis), which in turn can lead to other tissues surrounding the teeth becoming inflamed and infected. If untreated, periodontal disease can lead to extensive loss of teeth as a result of damage to the structures that support them.



Photo: Labat/Lanceau

Nutritional Support

Royal Canin Dental Diets are designed to promote good oral and dental hygiene in your pet. The special kibbles help to mechanically remove dental plaque and tartar. When your pet chews his food the abrasive texture of the kibble 'scrubs' each tooth, gently working away the plaque and tartar.

These complete diets are designed to be fed every day and are proven to reduce plaque and tartar formation by up to 64% when compared to feeding a standard dry diet.

In addition to being highly palatable, the special kibbles in Royal Canin Dental Diets contain specific nutrients to help support oral hygiene and also help to clean all the teeth, not just those used in chewing:

- Sodium tripolyphosphate binds salivary calcium so it is unavailable to build into tartar.
- Zinc helps to slow down tartar build-up has antiseptic properties and helps reduce bad breath.
- Green tea polyphenols also help maintain a healthy mouth and gums.

Royal Canin Oral Bar

The Royal Canin Oral Bar is a highly palatable, great tasting functional chew which comes in 2 sizes and densities to suit all dogs. The specifically designed unique shape has a large surface area, which gently works by scrubbing your dog's teeth during chewing. The special nutrients in the Royal Canin Oral Bar promote oral health and hygiene and reduce formation of plaque and tartar.

Tooth brushing is the gold standard for maintaining optimal dental health, but if you find cleaning your dog's teeth difficult, Royal Canin Oral Bar is the perfect solution to promote good oral health and hygiene. It can be used alone or in addition to Royal Canin Dental Diets. Fed daily it has been proven to reduce tartar build-up by up to 73%.

Even if your pet has had dental treatment in the past, brushing, dental diets and oral bars can help delay, or even reduce the need for further treatment in the future.

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Answers to your questions

Why are teeth extracted and not just filled?

The specialist veterinary dentist can carry out dental fillings and crowns, however they often have a short life in the mouth of an animal because of wear and tear and poor dental hygiene. All dental procedures are carried out under general anaesthesia and in the vast majority of cases a single curative procedure is deemed better for the animal than repeated procedures. Ask your vet about this.

Key benefits

Royal Canin Dental diets have special ingredients to meet the specific needs of your pet.



The texture and shape of the kibble produce a gentle abrasive effect on the teeth during chewing.



Helps to reduce dental plaque and tartar through the action of sodium polyphosphate, which binds with calcium in saliva, thus making it unavailable for the formation of tartar.



Supports the skin barrier thanks to a synergistic complex of vitamins and amino acids (niacin, pantothenic acid, choline, inositol and histidine).



Increases urine volume whilst simultaneously reducing saturation of urine with struvite and oxalate crystals, thus helping to reduce the risk of bladder stone formation.



Added chondroitin, glucosamine and Omega 3 essential fatty acids help maintain cartilage strength, joint health and activity levels.



A selection of highly digestible proteins helps to facilitate digestion and minimise intestinal fermentation, thereby reducing flatulence.



Aids the elimination of hairballs (through the action of psyllium and dietary fibre) thus helping to minimise discomfort associated with vomiting or constipation.

Do dogs' and cats' teeth grow again?

No, once the adult teeth have erupted no further teeth appear during the animal's life.

My dog is 2 years old. Is it too late to start tooth brushing now?

No, it's never too late to start brushing your pet's teeth. Even older dogs or cats can be trained to accept tooth brushing – ask your veterinary nurse to help you.



My dog likes to chew stones. Is that ok?

No. Stone chewing is a common problem, which breaks and damages your dog's teeth. Not to mention potential problems should the stone be swallowed. Try and encourage your dog to chew toys that are specifically designed for this purpose.

Daily care for oral health

More than 80% of dogs and cats over the age of 3 years have some form of dental disease. Taking care of your dog's or cat's teeth is an important part of daily healthcare. There are a variety of ways that you can help to look after your pet's teeth.

Dental check-ups



Your veterinary surgery is an excellent source of information on all aspects of dental care. Routine dental check-ups are common in most veterinary practices with recalls throughout your pet's life. Many practices have veterinary nurses dedicated to advising on dental health and diets, and some veterinary surgeons specialise in veterinary dentistry. All dental treatments such as scaling and polishing and extractions are carried out under general anaesthesia.

Important

When you are examining your pet's mouth or brushing teeth, make sure his/her back is towards you, and stop if you see any signs that your pet is uncomfortable or distressed. Children may find the idea of brushing their pet's teeth fun, but you should never allow young children to put their fingers into your pet's mouth or attempt to brush his teeth.

Additional Information:

Next Visit:

If you have further questions,
please contact your veterinary practice: