

CANINE DENTISTRY

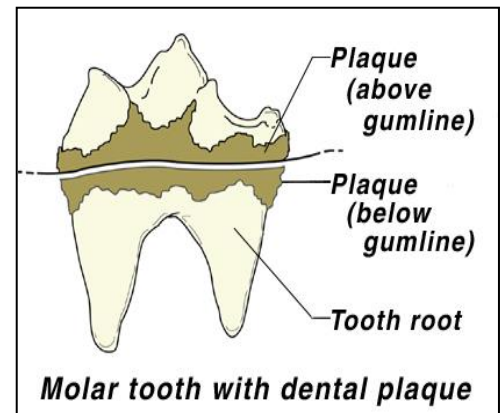
All of us know about the benefits of routine dental care for ourselves. Daily brushing and flossing, and regular visits to the dentist, keep our teeth and gums healthy. Dental disease is very common in dogs and unfortunately routine dental care is still often and neglected item of general health care. Most dogs will show few signs of dental disease, so that is why it is important as a new pet owner to begin dental care with your puppy.

Periodontal disease

Periodontal disease is a term used to describe inflammation or infection of the tissues surrounding the tooth. Accumulation of tartar and calculus on the teeth contributes to gum recession around the base of the tooth. Infection soon follows and the gums recede, exposing sensitive unprotected tooth surfaces. Untreated infection then spreads into the tooth socket and ultimately the tooth loosens and is lost.

Brushing your puppy's teeth

Start by rubbing your finger over your puppy's teeth in a back and forth motion. This will get your puppy used to your finger being in his/her mouth. Pet toothpaste is recommended for several reasons, and we have several different flavors. Pet toothpaste cleans the teeth enzymatically, thereby reduces the amount of actual brushing that you will have to perform. Human toothpaste should not be used as it can upset your puppy's tummy. These products are foaming products and are not meant to be swallowed.



Apply a small amount of the toothpaste to a finger tooth brush and place it right along the gum-line and use a circular motion. Start from the back and work toward the midline of the jaw. Try and brush the lower teeth as well. If your puppy will let you, you can brush the tops or insides of the teeth. The main teeth we want to focus on are the incisors,

canines, and the big teeth at the back of the mouth. We recommend brushing your puppy's teeth at least twice a week or every day if able.

