

## **DENTAL CARE FOR YOUR DOG**

**Dental Health Care** is one of the most neglected of pet health needs. It is not just bad breath. The tartar on their teeth is an infection that seeds bacteria into inflamed gums and infects in the liver, kidneys, and heart. Dental disease is also painful, despite their instinct to keep eating. Regular dental exams, professional scaling, and proper dental home care are necessary for good health. We hope you understand the importance of dental care to your pet's overall health and comfort and we will be happy to discuss with you during our exam.

- ***Ideally, we recommend daily brushing with quality high-enzyme pet toothpaste and toothbrushes. It makes a huge difference!*** You will not only make your pet healthier, you will also save on fewer, if any, dental cleanings.
- If not, we also have a **dental rinse**, which can be squirted on the teeth in order to kill oral bacteria, and lasts for hours afterward.
- We also carry **Science Diet t/d (tartar diet)**, which is effective in preventing tartar build-up. T/d is a balanced high-quality food that can be given exclusively, or as a treat. It comes in cat, small dog and large dog formulas.
- We also recommend **enzyme-coated rawhide chews**, which we sell by the bag. They continue killing mouth germs for 24 hours--more effective than regular rawhide chews.
- **Plain compressed rawhide chews** are also helpful. You must be careful and monitor your dog while they chew on them—anything in a dog's mouth is a potential foreign body that can lodge in the teeth, throat or stomach. Some dogs develop intestinal problems from rawhide bones and cannot tolerate them or can only tolerate them in small quantities. Do not give your dog rawhides with knots on the ends. Your dog's jaws are so strong, and the knot is so hard, that it is easy for them to break a tooth.
- We do not advise that you give your dog regular bones, which can splinter and cause serious mouth, throat or intestinal trauma.
- There are a multitude of dog toys and chews on the market, most of which help to some extent.
- We will be happy to show you how to brush your dog's teeth anytime! It ***isn't as hard as you think***, and most dogs love the taste of the toothpaste!

