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- Step By Step Guide To Pet Tooth Brushing

Please Note: Before embarking upon any dental programme, it is best to have a veterinarian check your pet's teeth as if your pet is already suffering from gum disease or has damaged teeth brushing may cause pain and distress to your pet. In addition your Veterinary Surgeon will also be able to provide you with advice about pet dental kit options and purchasing veterinary toothpaste.

Step One

Begin by picking a convenient part of the day to fit tooth brushing into your pet's daily routine. This is often best before a walk or before a daily treat as it will help your pet build the positive association between tooth brushing and a reward.

Step Two

Now it's time to get your pet used to you looking into his mouth. The sooner that he is familiar with this the easier the tooth brushing process will become. It is also a good idea to offer your pet a taste of the veterinary toothpaste to get him used to the taste before you begin brushing (remember human toothpastes and baking soda may cause problems so always use a veterinary toothpaste which will have flavours that are appealing to pets!).

Step Three

To begin brushing place a small amount of veterinary toothpaste on the brush and run the bristles along the gum line of the upper back teeth. By making a circular motion and angling the brush slightly upwards the bristles will get under the gum line and a better clean will be achieved.

Step Four

Continue working from the back teeth forward for around 30 seconds. The most important area that can be affected by periodontal disease is the outside of the upper teeth so it is best to focus your efforts here initially and given time your pet will eventually allow you to brush most of his teeth.

Step Five

Once the brushing process is complete remember to reward your pet with either a treat or simply lashings of attention.

Even with the best tooth brushing some dogs may need an occasional professional cleaning just like us humans. However, by brushing your pet's teeth daily your pet's dental hygiene will certainly improve which may even reduce the frequency and involvement of dental cleanings.

