

Dental Care for your Dog

Looking after the health of your dog's teeth is vital from puppyhood to senior citizenship. The aim is to keep your dogs teeth clean and thus preventing or minimising dental diseases such as tartar, gingivitis (inflammation of the gums) pyorrhoea, (infected gums), cares (infected teeth), premature loss of teeth and halitosis (bad breath).

Puppies use their mouths to explore the world. We can use this drive they have to chew, to introduce products that clean their teeth. Puppy teeth are shallow rooted and not as strong as adult teeth, so products suitable for puppy teeth will be slightly softer than those that can be used once the permanent teeth have all erupted (6 – 8 months of age).

Puppies should not be given bones to chew as these are too hard and the pup will not be able to consume them. If the pup cannot easily demolish the item then behaviour's such as guard-ing, digging and aggression may be encouraged.

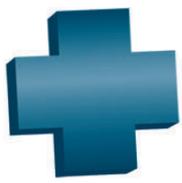
Introducing puppies to suitable items to chew has the added advantage of discouraging the chewing of other household items.

No dog should be given marrowbones or shanks as these hard leg bones can cause excessive wear, cracking and/or breakage of teeth. In addition no dog should be given cooked bones to chew as these cannot be digested and may lead to obstruction of the bowel or constipation. Cooked bones may also splinter and damage the dog's mouth, throat, stomach or bowels.

We sell chewable items that are cheap, convenient and low in calories that should be used after meals every day.

These include:

- **Hard baked biscuits such as 4 x 2's & Chocolate Bones**
- **Natures Pet selected Stix** (break into smaller pieces for smaller dogs)
- **Natures Pet Beef Tendons**
- **Beef crisps**
- **Pork chews**



In addition to the above products that should be given every day after meals, regardless of the age of the dog, we also sell other chewable products that we recommend giving twice weekly.

These are more substantial and suitable for adult dogs and pups with adult teeth (> 6 months old).

These include:

- **Dried and smoked lambs necks. These are available in 3 different formulations; Whole lambs necks for big dogs, cut pieces for medium sized dogs and cut, split and baked with liver sprinkles for the small, fussier dogs.**