

## Cat and dog dental care

Bad breath in a dog is often dismissed simply as "doggy breath." It's almost expected that your pet is going to have bad breath. But it's more than just us dealing with their halitosis; it may, in fact, signal periodontal disease, which is the most common ailment suffered by dogs and cats over 3 years old.



Bad teeth leads to periodontal disease and the risk of other issues like heart conditions.

Although dogs and cats rarely get cavities, the plaque and tartar that do form can cause gingivitis and periodontal disease. Treating this requires visits to your vet, where the cat or dog is anaesthetized and the teeth are physically cleaned, putting your pet at a lot of stress and the risks associated with any medical procedure.

Prevention is a lot easier than treating! Preventing periodontal disease can result in longer, healthier lives for pets and reduces the chance that teeth will have to be removed.

Our favorite solutions:



- [Nylabone Advanced Dental kits](#): Manual cleaning is by far the best, using a toothbrush or finger brush and dog or cat toothpaste. The scrubbing action fights oral disease, giving you cleaner teeth, reduced plaque and tartar, and fresher breath.
- [Nylabone dental chews](#): A trusted name in dental care, these toys and chews are designed to help clean your dog's teeth as they chew; available in a wide variety of sizes, shapes, and different chew strengths.
- [TropiClean Fresh Breath](#): With Clean Teeth gel, mint foam, water additive, and Fresh Breath Chews, TropiClean makes it easy to keep your pet's teeth clean without brushing. It works fast and naturally to help reduce plaque and tartar on dogs and cats -- no toothbrush required. A proprietary blend of natural, holistic ingredients produce a healthy oral environment, kills the germs that cause bad breath, plaque and gingivitis, and soothes minor gum irritations.

- [Crumps Naturals](#) : "We call it Sweet Potato Rawhide because this is a tough chew that is a natural rawhide replacement and dogs love it!" The tough texture is perfect for gently cleaning teeth and gums. Sweet potato is high in fiber, loaded with chlorophyll to
- neutralize bad breath, and is rich in vitamins such as beta-carotene which promotes bone growth and tooth development. It's sourced in Canada, so you know it's safe!



- Greenies: The classic dental treat! One treat a day helps keep their teeth clean and their breath fresher using the natural chewing action. These great tasting chews are easy to digest, making this part of your pet's oral care routine both easy and rewarding.
- Canned/raw food: We've been told for a long time that dry kibble strengthens teeth while canned food will make them weaker; this is, sadly, an old wive's tale. Canned and raw foods are actually better for a cat or dog's teeth than dry: the soft texture requires them to use their tongue a lot more, and, just like when we chew sugar-free gum, that action spreads saliva around their mouth, naturally reducing plaque. To find out more, see our [raw food caresheet](#).
- Raw bones: Raw bones are one of the most natural chews you could ever give to your dog. The enzymes and their chewing action help clear off tarter and scrape their teeth clean. For more information on raw bones, including which ones are safe and how to offer them, check out our [Raw Bone care sheet](#).



The naturally clean teeth of an avid chewer.

Use several of these in conjunction together in your pet's oral care routine. We don't just brush our teeth; we floss and rinse with mouthwash to ensure that our teeth are really clean.

Prevention is so much easier than treatment. Maintaining your dog's dental health at home means less expensive visits to the vet for deep dental cleanings.