

You brush yours. Now brush theirs.

We know it's not necessarily fun, but here's the truth: efforts directed at making our pets healthier (like brushing their teeth!) are never wasted. Read on for some ways to keep your pup's mouth cleaner. *It's not as hard as you think (honestly!).*



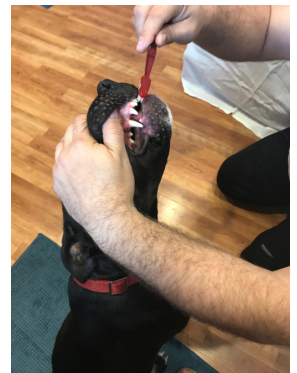
Meet August, a 3 year old pit bull / lab mix who has never had his teeth brushed. He's a little anxious, but such a good boy! He knows he's at prime risk for periodontal disease, given his age.

The first step is to get your pup used to having your hand and/or a toothbrush in his mouth. Start slow, use lots of praise and love, and make it fun! Try to choose a time when your pet is already relaxed.



The next step is introducing a pet safe toothbrush. August liked his much better when we dipped it in a little chicken broth for a taste treat, or you can use a pet safe toothpaste. If your dog is resistant to a toothbrush, try wrapping a finger in gauze instead.

Brush the visible teeth by lifting your pet's lips. Don't worry about brushing the tongue side of their teeth - just what you can see is a great start. Go slow, offer treats and be gentle.



August did a great job for his first time! If your pet is a little (or a lot) more resistant, try offering hard treats such as carrots, toys designed for brushing (like BeneBones) or Greenies. Your vet can also recommend kibble that's appropriate for your dog's dietary AND dental needs.

Your vet's info:

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Questions? Be sure to ask your vet!

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