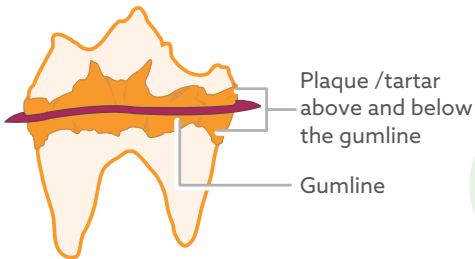




Home Dental Care Matters

Having a pet's teeth cleaned by your veterinarian is only part of the process when it comes to keeping your pet's mouth healthy. Here are 5 reasons why getting your pet accustomed to having their teeth brushed matters.



1. Plaque and tartar buildup: When plaque remains on the tooth's surface, it thickens and mineralizes into tartar that helps more plaque "stick" to the tooth surface. Plaque bacteria that come in contact with the gums cause inflammation (gingivitis), the first and only reversible stage of periodontal disease.

2. Periodontal disease: Periodontal disease begins with gingivitis, and if left untreated, the infection often spreads deeper into the tooth socket, destroying the bone. Ultimately, affected teeth become loose and may fall out over time.

3. Bad breath: Periodontal disease is the most common cause of bad breath in pets. As plaque ages and gingivitis progresses into periodontitis (tooth support loss), the bacteria in the mouth change from being helpful to destructive.

4. Oral pain: In some cases, pets with oral pain may stop eating, drool excessively, or avoid having their face touched. In other cases, pets hide their pain so well that their owners don't know.

5. Systemic disease: Mouths contain significant numbers of bacteria. These bacteria can enter the bloodstream and travel to other areas within the body, causing distant or systemic effects. The heart, liver, and kidneys are especially susceptible to these potentially damaging effects.

