

# Dental Care

When it comes to dental care, you can never start too young. The sooner you get your puppy or kitten used to you playing with their mouth and brushing their teeth, the better!

Here are some ideas of how to get started:

- ❖ Play with your pet's mouth – be patient and make it a fun experience.
  - Love, praise and treats work well!
- ❖ Handle your pet's muzzle, touch their lips and work your way up to rubbing their teeth and gums with your finger.
  - Try using a wash cloth or gauze over your finger.
  - Often using low sodium chicken or beef broth or tuna juice will make this easier
- ❖ When you think they are ready ... get a brush!
  - You can use a finger brush
  - You can use a child's toothbrush
  - You can buy a dual ended toothbrush from your veterinarian's office
- ❖ You will also need a veterinary toothpaste – poultry, seafood, malt flavored
  - Put a small amount on the toothbrush and let your pet just lick it off – like a treat
  - Finding the right flavor for your pet will make this easier
- ❖ If you are never able to brush, there are alternatives
  - Prescription diets designed for dental health care
  - Chew toys
  - Enzymatic rawhide chews
    - Do not give your pets natural bones – they are too hard and can fracture their teeth

