

## Dental Home Care

Periodontal disease is a natural disease caused by bacterial plaque accumulation. Plaque is a soft, sticky film that consists of bacteria, saliva and food particles which adheres to the teeth. Pets are prone to periodontal disease because unlike us they do not brush their teeth on a daily basis to remove the build-up. After cleaning the teeth, plaque begins to mineralize into calculus or tartar. This is the hard yellow or brown deposit that gets cemented onto the teeth and cannot be removed by brushing alone.

Homecare procedures such as tooth brushing, attention to the type of diet, and dental supplements, all have a major part to play in the prevention of plaque build-up and overall oral health. Homecare needs to be consistent as plaque builds up all the time and needs to be managed daily.

### ***Our home care recommendations –***

- **Brushing** - Gold standard care – Frequent plaque removal will prevent the start of periodontal disease and tooth brushing is considered the single most effective method for removing this plaque. Only pet designed brushes and pastes should ever be used.
- **Dental diets** - Special dental diets such as Hills t/d easily ensures your pet receives good oral care every day. Hills t/d works like a tooth brush by gently scrubbing away bacteria laden plaque as they chew.
- **Dental chews** - Dental chews, given regularly, have shown to reduce the build-up of plaque and tartar.
- **Oravet chews.** – Oravet dental hygiene chews are like a tooth brush in a chew. Daily use of Oravet will help scrub away plaque and form a protective barrier against the bacteria that leads to plaque and tartar build-up.
- **Maxiguard Oral Gel** - Through its unique combination of zinc and ascorbic acid (vitamin C) Maxiguard helps control gingivitis, plaque and halitosis. Zinc is antibacterial, reducing anaerobic bacteria responsible for bad breath and plaque formation. Vitamin C stimulates collagen production, aiding in gingival repair for treatment of periodontal pockets and gingival recession.
- **Oral health check in 12 months**

***-Regular oral care will increase the length and quality of your pet's life –***