

*Info shared by Pitbull SA.*

*Manjaro APBT kennel.*

*South Africa.*

*My Website [www.pitbullsa.co.za](http://www.pitbullsa.co.za)*

*My E mail "[manjaro@pitbullsa.co.za](mailto:manjaro@pitbullsa.co.za)"*

*My Facebook "Gawie Manjaro"*

*My Facebook page "Manjaro Kennel"*

*My mobile +27827838280.*

*Zello.com "VoIP" – ask for info.*

## ***Two-Thirds of pet owners skip dental care.***

You wouldn't dare ignore your own teeth, yet many dog owners don't routinely or ever brush their dog's teeth.

A recent study by a renowned animal health organization revealed two-thirds of dog owners don't provide the basic dental care recommended by their veterinarians.

I don't believe dog owners intentionally set out to ignore their dog's dental hygiene by not brushing... rather, I think they simply don't realize how important it can be...

Cleaning your dog's teeth is an essential part of dog ownership. They can't do it themselves, so it's up to you to take responsibility and do it for them.

Now that you hopefully understand this issue, I have some good news that I'm certain will lighten your heart - and your load...

**A brilliant advance in pet dental care – A boon for you both.**

Here's what may be the best news for many... you don't even have to brush your dog's teeth!

Of course, I recommend you brush for faster and better results, but it's not a necessity for those totally unwilling subjects...

### **What's behind your dog's dental hygiene?**

How fast your dog's teeth get dirty depends on several factors:

Your dog's age and breed

Genetic tendencies

Your dog's diet (high-carbohydrate diets - or those containing rice, corn, wheat, tapioca, or potatoes - promote the need for more frequent dental cleaning)

The amount of saliva your dog produces (the more the better)

You *can* make a difference in your dog's dental cleanliness.

### **Steps to keeping your dog's mouth clean.**

We talked about how carbohydrates can speed up the accumulation of dirt on your dog's teeth.

Did you know there's a type of food you can feed your dog that actually helps clean their teeth?

### **Raw food acts to help clean your dog's teeth!**

Gnawing on chew bones.

Raw meat and ground up bones also mechanically grind against and help clean teeth.



## What about dry kibble?

Is it true that it helps clean teeth?

**Not true** >> Contrary to what pet food manufacturers would like you to believe, kibble removes dirt from your dog's teeth about as effectively as granola cleans your teeth!

There are many reasons to feed your dog a raw diet, and it's recommended as important first step to help keep your dog's mouth clean.

Encourage your dog to chew to his heart's content.

Dogs love to gnaw on bones - and it's great for cleaning teeth and gums!

Raw meat, raw bony foods, and recreational bones are great tools for helping your dog clean his teeth.

But I must add a word of caution... Avoid cooked meat bones. Cooked bones can splinter and inflict serious injury to your dog's trachea and gastrointestinal tract.

If your dog has health issues, be sure to get your holistic vet's "okay" before feeding raw bones.

And always supervise your dog when feeding any type of bone.

### **Know what's going on inside.**



Accustom your dog at an early age to having his lips and gums touched and massaged.

For keeping your dog's mouth clean is to know what's happening inside...

Ideally, your dog should allow you to open the dog's mouth and look inside.

If your dog isn't used to you touching or peering inside their mouth, start today to acquaint them with this important habit.

Take it slowly and praise and reward your dog for their cooperation.

Once your dog is comfortable with you touching their mouth, lift the lips and examine the gums and teeth.

Their teeth should be clean, without brownish stains.

Don't expect to see pearly whites in an adult dog.

Yellow staining is normal for dogs that are no longer puppies.

Even professional cleaning doesn't remove staining, unless a bleaching agent is applied.

Once you've inspected your dog's mouth a few times, you'll become familiar with their teeth and gums.

Be sure to notice the smell of their breath and note any changes.

If you observe any of the following signs, schedule an appointment with your veterinarian, preferably one who practices holistic medicine, as soon as possible:

Bad breath (especially if you notice a change)

Inflamed gums

Excessive drooling

Unusual lumps on the gums or under the tongue

Loose or bleeding teeth

Enlist the professional to help.

Your holistic vet is a great resource when it comes to your dog's oral cleanliness.

Regardless of whether you are cleaning your dog's teeth at home, be sure to schedule regular oral exams with your veterinarian.

The vet will alert you to any existing or potential problems in your dog's mouth.

In some cases, a professional cleaning may be necessary.

If your vet strongly recommends having it done, and it's safe for your dog, do it.

With a clean mouth - a clean slate, so to speak - you can vow to keep up with cleaning at home moving forward.

Annual dental exams, starting at one year of age for cats and small-breed dogs, and two years of age for large-breed dogs, are recommended.

### **What about "anesthesia-free" dental cleanings?**

General this is not recommended.

These "cleanings" carry risks of injury to your dog and can't clean as deeply as traditional vet cleanings.

The following new advance in dental care, while not a replacement for professional oral exams, can potentially help keep your dog's teeth cleaner between professional cleanings.

**Brushing - Still the gold standard for your dog's oral cleanliness.**



Getting into the habit of brushing is easier than you think.

I believe step five is the most important step.... and that's to brush your dog's teeth.

As mentioned earlier you didn't have to brush for this product to work.

That is still an option if your dog refuses to let you come near them with a toothbrush, or if brushing isn't appropriate for your dog.

And you'll be pleased to know that this new option by itself is nearly as effective as brushing...

However brushing is still encourage because as you'll soon see, you'll likely experience better and faster results if you add brushing.

This because you want your pet to enjoy clean gums and teeth as quickly as possible.

Ideally you want to brush your dog's teeth every night.

The best time to establish a solid brushing routine is when your dog is young, before the age of one.

Get your dog comfortable with having their jaw, teeth, and gums touched from their earliest months.

Nearly any dog, at any age, can learn to accept having their teeth brushed.

Be sure to ease into it slowly, offer plenty of praise and reassurance, and be generous with healthy treats!

How to brush your dog's teeth... Even if you've never done it before. Brushing your dog's teeth doesn't need to be an insurmountable task. The key is to break the process down into steps and gradually work up to actual brushing.

Following these simple steps can make brushing easier and less stressful for you both:

Spend at least a week getting your dog "ready" for brushing.

Massage his lips with your finger in a circular motion once or twice a day.

For the next week or so, move to their teeth and gums, massaging with your finger in a similar manner.

Still no toothpaste or toothbrush yet...

Next, dab a very small amount of pet-formulated toothpaste on his lips. Spend at least a few days getting the dog accustomed to the taste.

Now introduce a piece of gauze and rub it against the teeth.

After your pet accepts that, you can move on to a "finger brush," and finally a special dog toothbrush with soft bristles, but don't rush.

Make small, circular motions on his teeth.

Add a small amount of toothpaste to the gauze or brush.

Focus on the back teeth and the outsides of your dog's teeth, as that's where they are dirtiest.

Try working on a few teeth at a time.

Gently massage your dog's gums with the gauze or brush.

And don't forget the praise and rewards...

Congratulations!

You've accomplished in helping your dog have a cleaner mouth.

### **The most challenging to care for... and with a greater need?**

Brushing - can be the most challenging if you have a dog who refuses to let you near his mouth with your fingers, much less a toothbrush.

And the risk of dirty teeth dramatically increases for older dogs.

### **New oral care products – Are they safe?**



Be wary of "oral care" treats and kibble...

Several new products - and even foods - claim to help clean your dog's teeth.

They include specially treated kibble, treats, chews, oral sprays, oral gels, and even water additives.

**But before you pick up a bag of one of these "oral care" formulas, here are a few facts you need to know.**

To create many of these "dental care" kibble and treats, manufacturers coat the food with a man-made industrial polymer called sodium hexametaphosphate (SHMP).

According to its Material Safety Data Sheet, SHMP can be hazardous to humans if swallowed.

A study on rats found it negatively affected their kidneys, growth, bones, muscles, liver, and thyroid.

Just because a product may be labeled and advertised as "safe" or "all-natural," always look closely at the ingredients.

**Introducing... Healthy pets dental gel with herbal extracts.**



Together with a company in the U.S. that's been manufacturing quality herbal dental products for 10 years, we've created a proprietary formula for Mercola Healthy Pets.

Not available anywhere else, my Healthy Pets Dental Gel contains 8 plant extracts that can potentially:

Help clean the teeth

Freshen breath

Help promote clean gums

Now there's a way to get the upper hand on your dog's dental cleanliness without lifting a toothbrush, if you so choose!

This formula contains 8 botanicals.



**This product contains a total of 8 main ingredients that are:**

Plant-based and 100% natural

Safe without potential adverse effects for dogs

Effective at cleaning teeth, even without brushing

**Ingredients.**

**Grapefruit seed extract** - Derived from grapefruit seeds

Helps clean teeth

**Neem oil** - Pressed from the fruits and seeds of the evergreen Neem tree

Supports gum cleanliness

Supports clean gums

**Thyme Oil** - Derived from leafy herb thyme

Promotes clean teeth

**Peppermint Oil** - Extracted from peppermint leaves

Freshens breath

**Tulsi Oil, or Holy Basil.** Safe for dogs to ingest, this renowned

Ayurvedic herb freshens breath, promotes a clean mouth.

**Cardamom Oil** helps promote clean gums and teeth, and freshens breath.

**How to get maximum benefits from this product.**

Good oral hygiene helps make happy dogs.

The 8 main ingredients are designed to work together to help keep teeth clean.

It's far easier and faster to help keep teeth clean in the first place than to clean them once they are dirty.

It's easy to use.

Just squeeze the recommended amount onto your fingertip.

For a medium size dog, that's only a fourth of a teaspoon.

If your dog will allow you to open his mouth, simply smear the gel over the teeth and gums.

If not, place the gel on their lips, paw, or muzzle, and they will lick it off.

The more they licks, the more it will mix with saliva in their mouth and coat his teeth and gums.

When smearing the gel on your dog's teeth, focus on the back molars first where most of the dirt accumulates.

Move to the pre-molars, canines, and then the incisors.

It's never too late to get started and it's never too late to provide the dog with the dental care they deserves.

Even if your dog is advanced in age and has a less-than-clean mouth, know that *some* oral care is better than no oral care.

Don't put off your dog's dental care one more day.

Important note! >> If your dog is sensitive to essential oils, please consult your veterinarian prior to use/application.