

# Oral Home Care Options

Proper dental care at home is highly recommended to help maintain the oral health of your pet. Although tooth brushing is the best method of preventing plaque, calculus, and bacterial build-up, there are many options for dental home care. For a list of Veterinary Oral Health Council approved home care products go to [www.VOHC.org](http://www.VOHC.org).

## Pet formulated toothpaste and toothbrush



Contains excellent materials to fight oral disease. Brush teeth once daily to prevent periodontal disease, provide a bonding experience between you and your pet, and to daily assess any changes in the oral cavity (lumps/bumps, color changes, fractured teeth, etc).

## Water Additive



A simple home care option that is added to water daily to slow down the accumulation of plaque and calculus.

## Dental Chews



Specially formulated chews for dogs and cats to help mechanically, and sometimes chemically, clean the teeth and remove plaque. Recommended chews include CET dental chews, Tartar Shield treats, and Greenies.

## Dental Formulated Food



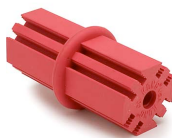
Dental formulated foods work in several different ways to mechanically or chemically slow down the progress of dental disease. Veterinary dental diets are completely balanced and can be used as the complete diet or may be added in with the existing food in 25 to 50% proportions.

## Oravet



A waxy type sealant applied to the teeth during a dental cleaning and applied at home thereafter. To use, apply a pea-size amount to the four outer quadrants of the teeth every week. You may use the applicators or clean fingers. Unused portions can be sealed and reused as the entire container is not usually used in one application.

## Dental Toys



Toys that encourage chewing can help prevent calculus deposition. Kong and Kong-like toys are great at mechanically cleaning the teeth. Rope toys (be careful they are not shredded) are also beneficial in slowing down dental disease. In general, toys should be able to be bent or indented and should not hurt when lightly tapped against your knee (the knee cap test).