



## Starting Young Allows for a Lifetime of Dental Health

- Prevention is KEY!
- Routine dental cleanings can start at any age.
- Annual health exams are necessary in detecting early dental disease.
- Retained baby teeth (that can be found on physical exam) can create problems with adult teeth later on, and should be removed.
- Brushing your pet's teeth is the best way to keep their teeth healthy, and can be started as early as 8-12 weeks of age.
- Other options for at home dental care may include: dental diets, dental chews, dental wipes and/or dental sprays. (Ask Our Veterinarians for recommendations.)

### Countryside Veterinary Clinic, LLP - 4 Locations:

#### Lowville Clinic

7364 Utica Blvd  
Lowville, NY  
315.376.6563

#### Carthage Clinic

21995 Cole Road  
Carthage, NY  
315.493.7387

#### Foothills Clinic

12568 Potato Hill Road  
Boonville, NY  
315.942.5320

#### Otter Lake Clinic

13805 State Route 28  
Otter Lake, NY  
315.369.2130

[cvcpets.com](http://cvcpets.com)



# DENTAL HEALTH AND YOUR PET

## DENTAL DISEASE FACTS:

- 80% of all pets over the age of 3 have some form of dental disease
- Dental infections are painful
- Dental tartar and infections in the mouth create a reservoir of bacteria that injure internal organs
- Severe dental disease will shorten your pet's lifespan by as much as 2 years
- Regular dental cleanings can help prevent dental problems

## SIGNS OF DENTAL PROBLEMS:

- Loss of appetite (However, many pets will still eat even with severe dental disease)
- Bad breath
- Drooling
- Abscesses under the eye(s)



**You Can Brush Your  
Pets Teeth...**

**Tooth Brushing Tips:**

## DURING A DENTAL PROCEDURE:

- It is performed under anesthesia (Pet's don't say Ahhh)
- A physical exam and pre-anesthetic testing is done prior to anesthesia and dental procedure
- Your pet will be given fluids to keep them hydrated and help them better process the anesthesia
- Heart and Blood Oxygen Levels are monitored
- Teeth are ultrasonically scaled and polished
- If advanced dental disease is present then some teeth may need to be extracted
- Antibiotics and pain medication are given as indicated by the stage of dental disease
- A dental treatment plan will be provided prior to the procedure to outline all procedures and costs



- **MAKE IT FUN!**
- Build up to it gradually. Don't spend more than 30-60 seconds initially. Go slow and allow your pet time to get use to each step.
  - Week 1 – Slowly acquaint your pet with mouth care. Pet the muzzle and touch the gums with your fingers. Use plenty of praise and treats.
  - Week 2 – Introduce toothbrush or washcloth, and even toothpaste. Allow your pet to taste the toothpaste and continue the same as week 1.
  - Week 3 – Brush the teeth. Brush the outside surfaces of the teeth in a back and forth motion.
- Only use pet approved toothpaste. NEVER use human toothpaste.
- If your pet shows any indication of aggression stop immediately.