



Brushing Your Cat's Teeth



STEP 1:

- Get your cat used to you handling the mouth by **gently putting your finger under the lip.**
- Do this briefly at first, and then work up to several seconds of handling.
- Give praise and a special treat as a reward for holding still.
- Get your cat used to this before proceeding to Step 2.



STEP 2:

- **Wrap a piece of gauze around your fingertip and rub your covered finger against the upper teeth.**
- Some cats will tolerate this better than actual teeth brushing.
- Even doing this step without toothpaste or a toothbrush helps remove disease-causing plaque.



STEP 3:

- Some cats will allow you to use a cat finger brush or a cat toothbrush in place of the gauze
- **Don't forget to brush the back teeth.** You may need to do the back teeth by feel rather than trying to see the teeth.
- We can supply you with a style of toothbrush to match your needs.



STEP 4:

- Add **CET toothpaste** or **antibacterial gel** to the gauze or toothbrush.
- If your cat does not like the above products, use plain gauze or a plain toothbrush. The abrasive action alone is helpful.
- If your cat does not like the gauze or brush, apply the gel or toothpaste with your finger.

- **Brush the teeth in the same room at the same time every day just before feeding**
- **5 SECONDS PER DAY** is all that is needed
- Only brush the **upper teeth on the outside** of the teeth.
- **CET chews** and **Greenies** are chewable treats that help remove plaque.
- **Every cat is different:** use gauze, a toothbrush, toothpaste, and antibacterial gel to find out what your cat likes the best. We can supply you with these different dental products.
- **Start at a young age** for maximum cooperation.

Hawthorne Animal Hospital

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