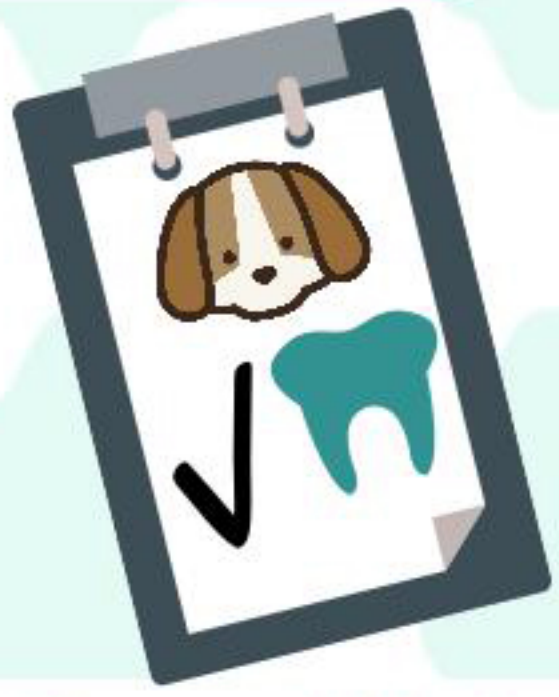


# Put Dental Care On Your Pet's Checklist



Pet owners usually make sure their dogs and cats receive TLC from head to toe but just may forget the all-important mouth and the teeth inside their furry friends. Ignoring those pearly whites leads to a big problem. Here are some tips to help with your pet's dental health. Give these tips a try and get even more information at [goodnewsforpets.com](http://goodnewsforpets.com)™.

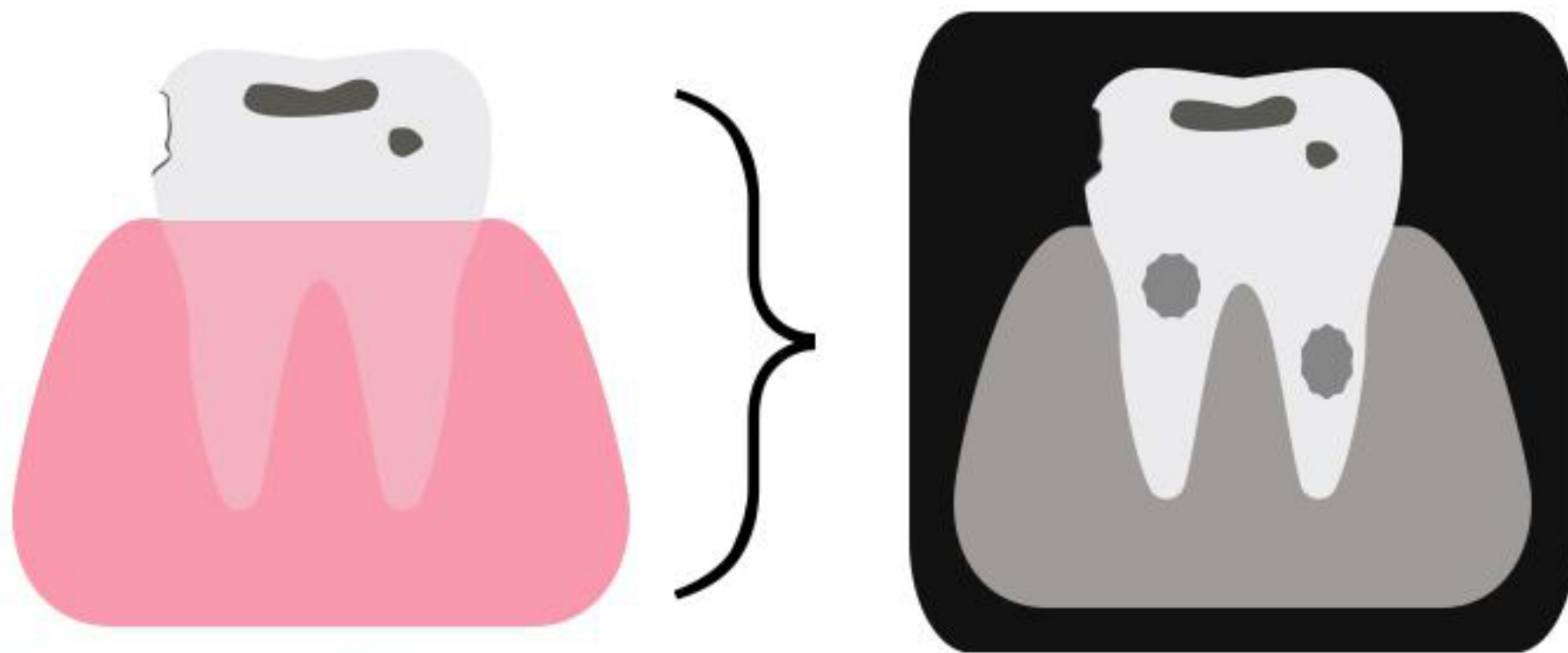
## Pets and Vets

Veterinarians recommend a thorough dental exam and cleaning every year as part of your pet's wellness routine. Good dental care should start sooner rather than later, especially in small breed dogs, which are more likely to develop dental issues.



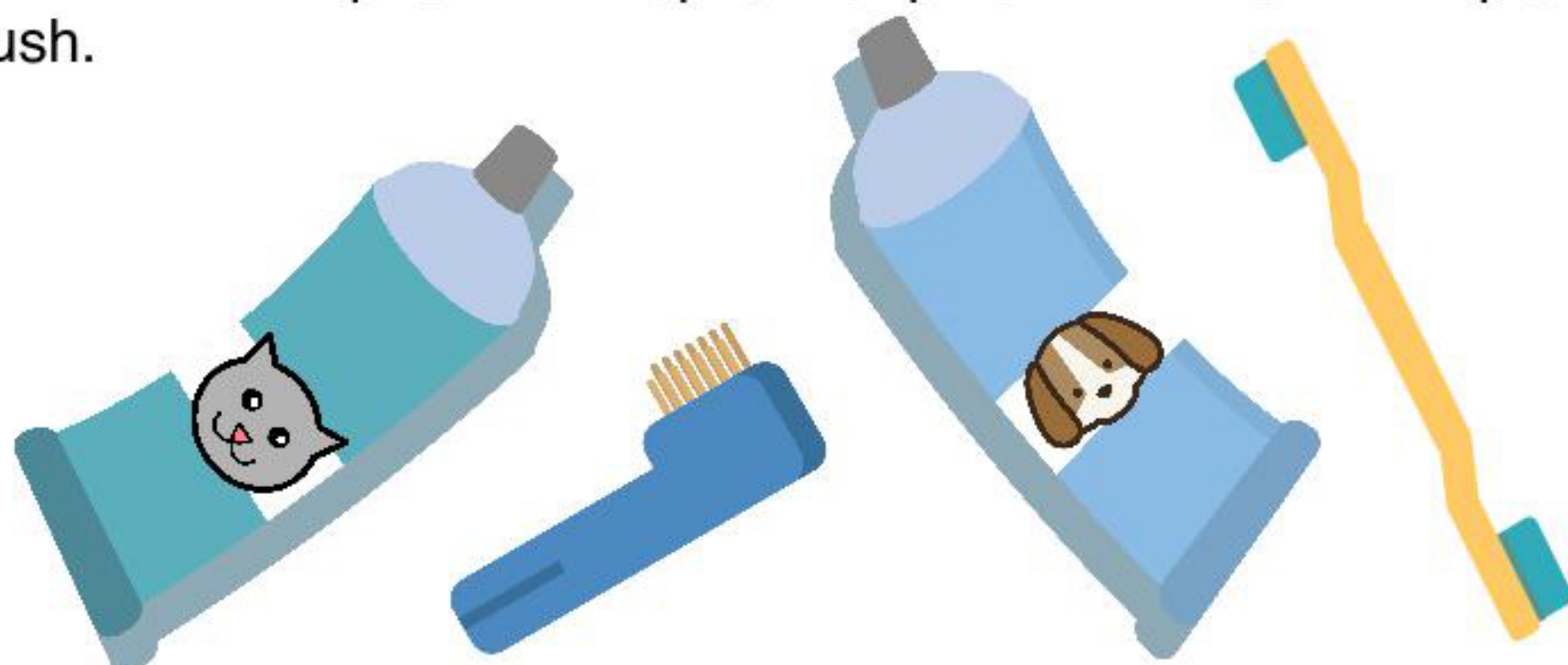
## Below the Surface

Approximately 75% of each tooth is hidden below the gum line, so X-rays are used to evaluate the whole tooth and bone socket health. This evaluation requires anesthesia. This is the most effective and safe way for veterinarians to clean your pet's teeth.



## Choosey Chops

Toothbrushes specifically for dogs and cats better assist in cleaning their teeth. Special toothpastes are enzymatic for greater cleaning and come in flavors more enticing to your pet's pallet. Dental wipes are an option for pets that refuse attempts to brush.



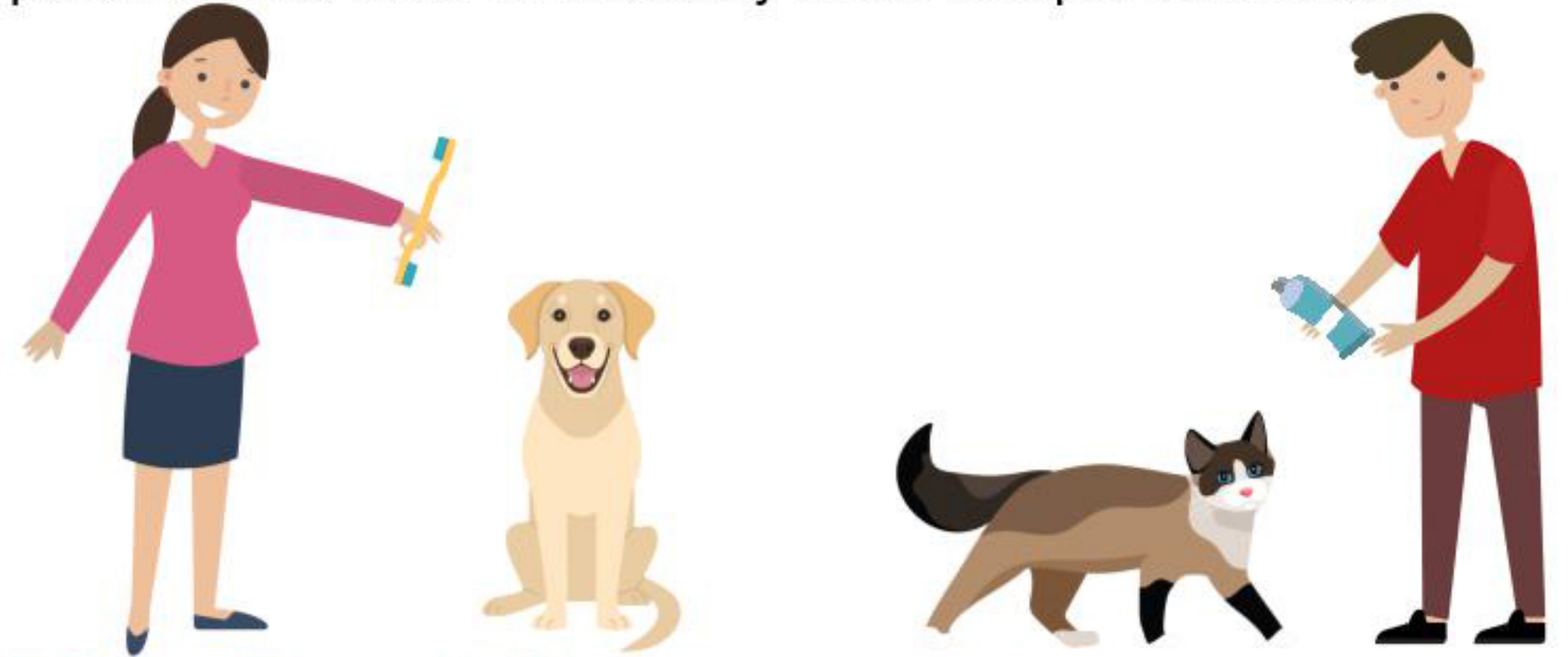
## Signs of Trouble

Look for signs of redness around the gums, tooth discoloration, drooling, dropping food, mouth sensitivity and any signs of bleeding. Bad breath is a key indicator of periodontal disease that has progressed.



## Brush and Repeat

Brush your pet's teeth at least a few times a week between veterinary visits. Start by getting your pet used to you handling their mouth. Use a small amount of pet toothpaste and let your pet smell and taste it. Gradually move to a pet toothbrush.



## Chew Carefully

Pets may benefit from food and treat options proven to decrease dental diseases. However, be careful of treats and toys that may break their teeth, harm their gums or worse. Your veterinarian can guide you on products that support your pet's dental health.



Source: Goodnewsforpets, & Lobprise, DVM, DAVDC, H. (2018, February 03). Put Dental Care On Your Pet's Checklist. Retrieved February 03, 2018, from <http://goodnewsforpets.com/put-dental-care-on-your-pets-checklist>  
This is for information and awareness purposes only. Please consult with your veterinarian.

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