



*We understand how significant your pet is to your life.*



## Quick Bites On Pet Dental Care

### DOGS

- Puppies develop 28 temporary teeth at two to three weeks of age. Their 42 permanent teeth emerge at about four months.
- Studies show that, by age 3, 80 percent of dogs exhibit signs of gum disease.
- Small dog breeds are more likely than large breeds to develop periodontal disease. Canine dentistry experts believe this is because the teeth of small dogs often are too large for their mouths, forcing the teeth closer together.

### CATS

- Kittens have about 26 temporary teeth at two to three weeks of age. Their 30 permanent teeth erupt at about three to four months.
- According to studies, about 70 percent of cats have signs of gum disease by age 3.
- Cervical line lesions are the most common tooth disease in domestic cats. Studies show that about 28 percent of domestic cats develop at least one of these painful lesions during their lifetime.

### Home Care Tips

In addition to providing regular dental checks for their pets, pet owners can take steps at home to ensure good oral health:

- Feed a specially formulated pet food with proven oral health benefits in daily plaque and tartar control.
- Brush the pet's teeth with a specially formulated toothpaste in flavors appealing to dogs and cats. Toothpaste for humans should not be used because it is not meant to be swallowed and so can cause upset stomachs for pets.

### VOHC Certification

The Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC) was created in 1997 to certify veterinary dental products that effectively control plaque and calculus in cats and dogs. For products positioned for different-sized pets, the manufacturer must submit separate efficacy studies for each size.

Products that have received the VOHC seal of acceptance to date include:

Prescription Diet® t/d™ (feline and canine), Science Diet® Oral Care™ diets, Friskies® Dental Diet, Del Monte Tartar Check® dog biscuits, Friskies® Cheweez™ treats, Iams Dental Defense Chunk® diet (canine), Eukanuba® Adult Maintenance diet (canine), and Greenies® Edible Dog Treats. For more information, visit the VOHC Web site at [www.vohc.org](http://www.vohc.org).