



## DENTAL DISEASE PREVENTION

Just like humans, animals need regular maintenance to keep their teeth healthy. Below are some tricks to help them keep those pearly whites!

### **Diet**

Dry food is very beneficial for dental disease as it has a mild abrasive effect leading to removal of tartar and calculus. But some are better than others! We recommend Science Diet T/d or Royal Canin Dental prescription dry foods. These diets should be fed exclusively unless otherwise directed by your veterinarian. Raw bones are also beneficial for dental disease as they remove some of the superficial plaque. Ask your vet what is the most appropriate type for your pet.

### **Regular brushing**

It is possible to brush many animals' teeth. This is completed using a soft human toothbrush (or finger brush) and pet toothpaste. Do not use human toothpaste as this can potentially cause a gastrointestinal upset. Gradually get your pet used to brushing by starting with just your finger and working up to the toothbrush. This can be completed daily from when they are a puppy or kitten.

### **Regular veterinary dental checkups**

Your animal should be seen by the vet at least once a year to get a full oral examination. By doing this we will pick up signs of disease early and may be able to avoid costly dental work. However some cats and dogs are genetically pre-disposed to dental disease and will require dental work regardless to maintain a healthy mouth.

*Written by P Honson 2017*