



Dental Newsletter, 2017

The month of February is almost upon us again and for Hazeldean Animal Hospital, that means dental month. During this month every year we put the focus on your pet's oral health. During dental month (extending into mid-March if necessary) we offer a discount of 10 % on the scale and polish part of a dentistry. We also work hard at educating our clients on the care required to hopefully avoid more aggressive dental care. Being aware of the potential pain and health complications of oral disease make our four legged family members lives better through prevention.

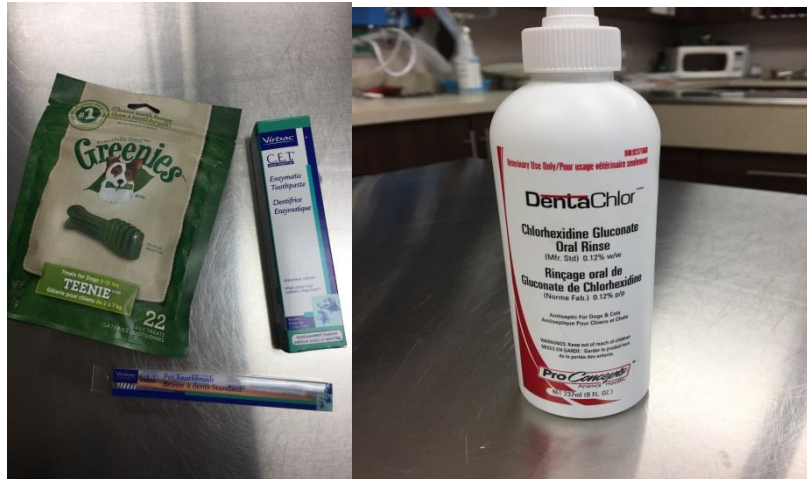
There are a million and one dental care products on the market for your pet. It is hard to know which products are best for our individual pets and which ones really work. There are even products on the market that are harmful by either being too hard for teeth and causing broken teeth, and some products include toxic ingredients. Here we will try and give you information justified by true science that will help you make good choices.

Products to avoid

- Antlers and bones
 - These products are notorious for breaking teeth, causing pain and in the case of bones being very fatty and possibly leading to pancreatitis
- Products containing xylitol
 - Many human dental health products include xylitol which is an artificial sweetener, some of these products have been made into animal products and they are toxic

The best products

- The toothbrush
 - Nothing works as well as a toothbrush – ideally teeth should be brushed daily as it takes plaque 36 hours to turn into tartar. Pet toothpaste helps as an abrasive to remove plaque and a nice taste to make it more enjoyable for the pet. Also pet toothpastes do not contain fluoride which is toxic when consumed.
- 0.12% Chlorohexidine Rinse
 - Chlorohexidine is a medical antibacterial agent and works very well as a rinse. It can be applied to a piece of gauze and applied to the teeth or sprayed directly on the teeth.



Other products

Sometimes our pets aren't as excited about dental care as we are and the above products prove too difficult for the individual. Also sometimes due to genetics etc. people want to help more as they are trying to prevent mouth pain and frequent anaesthesia for cleaning teeth. The best products on the market have a Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC) seal of approval. The process to earn a seal is very scientific and costs money so only the best products receive the seal. Ideally you want to pick a product that prevents tartar and most importantly plaque before we get to the tartar stage. Here are some options.

Dental Diets

- There are multiple dental diets that include Royal Canin Dental, Hill's T/D, Purina Dental, and Science Diet Oral Care
 - Our best recommendation is Royal Canin Dental as it works to remove plaque via 3 routes
 - Mechanical removal – accomplished from kibble texture, size and composition
 - Polyphosphates – focus on calcium compounds moving out of the mouth to the stomach, to prevent plaque becoming tartar
 - Plaque fighting compounds – that decrease plaque and bacteria in the mouth and the ability to adhere to the tooth

Dental Treats

- Greenies for dogs have the VOHC seal for both tartar and plaque while the feline treats are approved for the prevention of tartar
- Medi-Chews – act like a toothbrush to remove plaque even with short term chewing
- Veggie Dents – a vegetarian option approved for the removal of tartar in pets

When giving dental treats we must be careful about calorie content as these can be very high in calories and inappropriate for the weight prone pet.

Dental Water Additives

- Healthy Mouth is a water additive that is proven to reduce both plaque and tartar. 5 ml is added to 1 L of drinking water and this is used for all the pet's drinking water. These products have lots of science behind them and are perfect for the pet who will not let you do invasive oral care or the pet who needs every option available to help prevent tartar.
 - A 237ml container costs about \$80 but would last approx. 5 months in a 10 lb dog depending on how much they drink.

