

## Why is Dental Care Important?

Good dental care must start now because your pet needs to get used to having his mouth and teeth handled. Home care can help to minimize the tartar that builds up on the teeth and keeps the gums healthy. Home care and regular veterinary dental cleaning will keep your pet's mouth healthy.

### *Prevention*

- Brushing - This can be accomplished with a soft washcloth, or a soft pediatric tooth brush, or a finger brush.
- Toothpaste - You can't use human toothpaste with your pet because they will swallow it! There are special pet toothpastes that are safe to use, and will taste good to your cat or dog too!
- Diet - There is a diet made by Hills called T/D. This diet is very hard and crunchy. It is specially designed to scrape the plaque from the teeth with every bite! You can give these as treats.
- Treats- There are several different treats that we recommend that will help your pet's teeth. You can use the T/D diet as a treat or there are CET chews available for both dogs and cats!
- Toys - There are many different toys on the market that can help with dental care. "Rope Bones" made out of knotted cloth can actually "floss" the teeth, and Kongs are a good alternative to other toys because they are made of rubber and can be filled with peanut butter or other goodies. Stay away from hard plastic bones and cow hooves because they can break teeth. If you have any questions about specific toys, please ask!

Slab Fracture Before



Apical Abscess



Slab Fracture After

