



# PET DENTAL CARE

**Most pet dental disease occurs below the gum line, where you can't see it.**  
**Your pet's teeth and gums should be checked at least once a year by your veterinarian.**

**SCHEDULE A DENTAL EXAM** if you observe any problems with your pet's mouth, such as broken teeth, pain, or difficulty when eating.

**DENTAL CLEANING** includes scaling (to remove plaque and tartar) and polishing, similar to the process used on your own teeth during cleanings.

**ANESTHESIA** makes it possible to perform dental procedures with less stress, pain, and risk of injury for your pet. It also lets your veterinarian do a full exam below the gum line, where most oral disease occurs.

**REGULARLY BRUSHING** your pet's teeth is the single most effective thing you can do to keep their teeth healthy between dental cleanings. It may reduce the frequency or even eliminate the need for periodic dental cleaning by your veterinarian.

**TALK WITH YOUR VETERINARIAN** about any dental products, treats, or dental-specific diets you're considering for your pet, or ask your veterinarian for their recommendation. Your veterinarian also can teach you how to brush your pet's teeth.

**For more information visit [avma.org/PetDental](https://avma.org/PetDental)**