

NEW TEAMS



Steve Allen & Enzo
(Salt Lake City, UT)



Laurie Christie & Dottie
(Salt Lake City, UT)



**Michelle Bouwman
& Junie B**
(Sandy, UT)



Merilee Collins & Goldie
(Lindon, UT)



Emily Burke & Abbey
(Holladay, UT)



John Collins & Goldie
(Lindon, UT)



**Lauren Cabrera
& Mallow**
(Salt Lake City, UT)



**Mike Gruenhagen
& Belle**
(Salt Lake City, UT)



Bruce Clegg & Gus
(Salt Lake City, UT)



NEW TEAMS (cont.)



**Stephanie Haight
& Lady Finley**
(Sandy, UT)



**Cathie Schoeck
& Finn**
(Holladay, UT)



**Shawna Jorgenen
& Maedli**
(Alpine, UT)



**Anne Stringham
& Skye**
(Salt Lake City, UT)

HANDLERS W/NEW PARTNERS



**Bruce Hamilton
& Ginger**
(Holladay, UT)



**Beth Kristenson
& Gelly**
(Eden, UT)



**Melora Wood
& Lincoln**
(Sandy, UT)



Dental Care for our Animals ~ Part 2

Here it is! Part II of canine dental care in which I will cover anesthesia-free teeth cleaning, tips on maintaining your dog's oral health, and how to know that the products you are using are safe and effective for your dog.

– Katie Domann, DVM

You have probably heard of “anesthesia-free dental cleanings” often referred to as NAD’s (non-anesthetic dental scaling). This involves cleaning your dog’s teeth without using general anesthesia. The dog is gently restrained, and the visible tartar is scraped off using a dental scaler. It has become very popular over the past decade; unfortunately for many pets it has replaced a thorough and complete CO-HAT.

It has many disadvantages including:

- There is no way to comfortably clean underneath the gums, in between the teeth, and on the inside surface of every single tooth.
- It’s stressful and dangerous.
- Dental X-rays can’t be taken when pets are awake, leaving almost two-thirds of the tooth below the gum line unseen.
- Tooth surfaces can’t be polished. Scraping the tooth creates a microabrasion in the enamel. If not polished away, the area is going to retain more plaque.
- Probing and charting the teeth—an integral part of oral healthcare—is difficult to impossible to do without anesthesia.



- The pet’s airway is not protected. If breaking off calculus, chunks of plaque could be aspirated into the lungs.
- If a pet is stuck with a sharp scaler, the pet could bite the person and the pet will be averse to future cleaning

or brushing.

At the end of the anesthesia-free dental procedure, the outside surfaces of your pet’s teeth may appear visibly whiter; however, there is much more than meets the eye. Because anesthesia wasn’t used, there was no ability to clean beneath the gum line where the bacteria causing periodontal disease occurs and causes bad breath and extensive damage to tooth roots and supporting bone structure. White teeth do not mean a clean and healthy mouth. This is the most unfortunate misconception by many loving pet owners, who don’t realize the potential oral health problems that sit beneath their dog’s gums.

What can you do at home to prevent and reduce periodontal disease and tooth loss in your dog?

It is a good idea to become comfortable with opening your pet’s mouth and looking inside. Lift her lip and look at her teeth. If your pet is cooperative, get used to working with your

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THERAPEUTIC MOMENTS



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: You may have read about the little boy who was the victim of a hit-and-run incident in Ogden. Macy (partner of Alyson Lundy) was one of the first to comfort him. **NEXT:** As his healing progressed, ITA dogs were there to offer encouragement. In the photo below right are Kingsley, Nikki and Silva (partners of Susan Daynes, Carol Prince and Lolly Vuz, respectively).

BOTTOM RIGHT: Macy (partner of Alyson) snuggles up with a baby at Primary Children's Hospital.

BOTTOM LEFT: As Jan Abramson & Izzie looked on, Luke Bennett (partner of Diana) helped draw two strangers into a long and meaningful conversation.

LEFT: Sophie the Whippet (partner of Julie Hansen) as rendered by a young person at the Solstice residential care center.



Dental Care for Our Animals ~ Part 2 (cont.)

pet's mouth as this will be the key to caring for your dog's teeth at home and evaluating his oral health.

Be sure to get a good look at the back teeth as this is where tartar is usually heaviest; if you see tartar, it's probably time for a professional cleaning. Regardless of a good home dental prophylactic program, periodic professional cleaning is necessary.

The most effective method of maintaining oral health between professional cleanings is with regular brushing. Use a soft bristle toothbrush (human or canine) that will fit inside your dog's mouth. Use a toothpaste specifically made for dogs as these are safe to be swallowed. Animal toothpastes come in special flavors (chicken, seafood, and malt) in addition to the more human-appreciated mint and all are expected to be swallowed.

It takes some time for dogs to become comfortable with having their teeth brushed, however with patience and diligence most dogs will become accustomed to this habit. The following video from Cornell Veterinary School gives an excellent demonstration of how to brush your dog's teeth!

[Brushing your dog's teeth | Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine](#)

There are a myriad of products available on the market from rinses, water additives, chews, etc. These are designed to complement teeth brushing or in some cases replace it for those dogs that simply won't tolerate having their teeth brushed.

The Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC)

is an organization that reviews and approves dental products made for pets based on their effectiveness in reducing plaque and tartar. They award a "Seal of Acceptance" to products that meet their rigorous standards, providing pet owners with a way to identify products that have been proven to improve dental health. A wide variety of pet dental products have earned the VOHC Seal of Acceptance, including dental diets, chews and treats, water additives and toothpastes.

Dental Wipes, Rinses and Pads

Some animals, especially those with tender gums, will not tolerate brushing but are more amenable to disinfecting wipes or pads. These products will wipe off plaque deposits from the surface of the tooth and, though they lack the ability to pick food particles out of the gum socket, they are probably the next best thing to brushing and, like brushing, these products are best used daily.

Dental Treats

For many people, doing anything inside their pet's mouth on a regular basis is simply never going to happen. Fortunately, all is not lost: chewing on a proper dental chew daily can substantially reduce plaque and tartar by up to 69%. When choosing a dental chew, be mindful of the calorie content as it will need to be incorporated into your dog's daily caloric consumption.

Dental Diets

There is a common misconception that simply feeding a dry kibble diet will protect the teeth from dental disease. Consider what it would be

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