



Chastain Veterinary Medical Group Pet Health Fact Sheet

How Often Do Pets Need A Professional Teeth Cleaning?

Each pet's dental care needs are unique. How often a pet needs a professional 12-step veterinary dental cleaning will vary with the pet's genetic background, its diet, the degree of accumulation of plaque and tartar, and the amount of home dental care that it receives, if any.

Examine your pet's teeth each month. Look for accumulations of yellow or brown material in the area where the teeth and gums meet. Pay particular attention to the back teeth and the canine or fang teeth.

Once you notice any plaque or tartar accumulation, it is time for a professional cleaning. Don't wait – the clock is already ticking. Plaque and tartar contain infectious bacteria that are irritating to gum tissues. This leads to gingivitis. When gingivitis is left untreated, it will progress to periodontitis, which is painful, irreversible, and can damage other organs in the body.

Our experience has been that the average pet with average home dental care will probably need a professional cleaning about once every 12-18 months.

Chastain Veterinary Medical Group

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