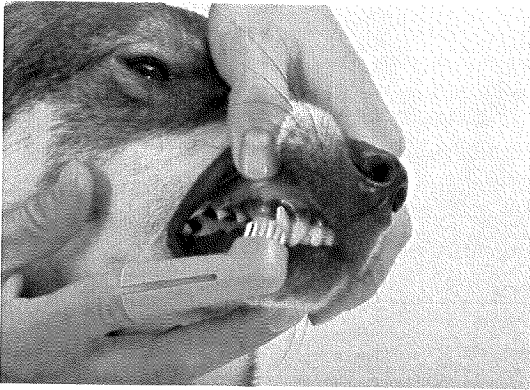


How to Brush Your Pet's Teeth

Just like in humans, dental care is an important part of your pet's overall health. Here's a step-by-step guide to keeping those chompers sparkling white at home.



1. Start brushing your pet's teeth early—8 to 12 weeks old is best. If you brush every day, your pet will become familiar with the routine when their permanent teeth erupt. Please note: You may need to stop brushing while your pet loses their baby teeth. Their mouth will be a bit sore and handling may cause more pain. Continue once all permanent teeth come in.
2. Work with your pet's mouth. Be patient and make it fun. Use love and praise, and try to practice at the same time each day to establish a routine. Choose a quiet time, such as late in the evening. Or, if your pet is highly motivated by food, try just before dinner so they can be rewarded for their cooperation.
3. Handle your pet's muzzle and touch the lips. Work up to rubbing the teeth and gums with your finger.
4. Finally, use a finger brush or a soft veterinary or human toothbrush to brush the teeth. Hold the brush at a 45-degree angle to the tooth and brush gently back and forth or in a circular pattern from gum to tip. Brushing the tongue side of the teeth is less critical, but still good. Offer rewards and treats when your pet allows you to brush.
5. Consider other dental aids. A large selection of veterinary toothpastes, oral rinses, and gels are available to you. Our veterinary team can help you select the right one for you and your pet. These products all enhance your home care program, but daily brushing is best. Avoid human toothpaste because fluoride and detergents can be harmful if swallowed. Hydrogen peroxide can be harsh on the gums and shouldn't be swallowed either. Baking soda has a high sodium content and should be avoided in older pets.
6. Pick kibble and rubber chew toys that will help keep the teeth clean. Avoid natural bones, which are hard enough to fracture teeth. Our veterinary team can recommend a complete and balanced professional diet to use at feeding time and as a treat.

FAQs about microchipping

What is a microchip?

The microchip is a tiny computer chip, about the size of a grain of rice, programmed with an identification number. The chip is enclosed in biocompatible glass and is small enough to fit into a hypodermic needle. Once an animal is injected with a chip, it can be identified throughout its life with this one-of-a-kind number.

What's the benefit of microchipping my pet?

Microchips are permanent and can't be lost, altered, or destroyed. Pet owners have been reunited with chipped pets that have been missing for years or that have traveled thousands of miles.

How does microchip identification work?

A special scanner is used to send a radio signal to the chip to read the identification number. The pet feels nothing when the scanner is placed over it. The number is displayed on the scanner, and the person reading the scanner can contact a national registry to find out who the pet belongs to.

How is the microchip implanted?

Microchips are implanted with a needle beneath the skin between the shoulder blades. They can't be felt or seen.

How early can puppies or kittens be injected with a microchip?

Young pets can be microchipped as early as 6 to 8 weeks of age.

How long does the microchip last?

The microchip has no power supply, battery, or moving parts, and it's designed to last the life of the pet. Once injected, the microchip is anchored in place as a thin layer of connective tissue forms around it. It requires no care and will not pass through or out of the body.

Does implanting the microchip hurt my pet?

Most pets react the same way to this shot as they do to any other. The microchip contains nothing that will burn or irritate tissue; it's completely biocompatible.

Does my pet have to be sedated to be implanted with a microchip?

No. Injecting a microchip is just like any other injection or vaccination. Anesthesia is not required or recommended.

Could my pet be allergic to the microchip?

The microchip is inert, smooth, nontoxic, and nonallergenic. Microchip companies say there is virtually no chance of the body developing an allergy or trying to reject the microchip.

If a veterinary clinic or animal shelter finds a microchip, how will they know who to call?

Animal shelters and veterinarians are finding chips in more and more pets. They are aware of the national registries and routinely contact them to obtain owner information regarding the pet. They then contact owners to advise them their pet has been found.

I have tiny toy breeds—can I still have them implanted?

Absolutely. Puppies can be chipped as early as 6 weeks old. The same size microchip and needle are used in pets even smaller than puppies and toy breeds, including mice, baby birds, and even fish.

How do I update information in the registration?

After your pet is chipped, you will be given information about how to contact the national registry to update your information. Remember to do this whenever you change your address or phone number.

Do shelters scan animals for microchips?

Yes, scanning pets for microchips has become standard practice in animal shelters.

WHERE TO LICENSE YOUR CAT OR DOG

Please note that proof of a current Rabies vaccine is necessary to license your pet

Fargo

Valley Veterinary Hospital - 3210 Main Ave 701.232.3391

OR

City Hall Collections Office - 200 3rd St N 701.241.1300

Moorhead

Moorhead Police Dept. - 915 9th Ave N 218.299.5120

West Fargo

West Fargo Police Dept. - 800 4th Ave E 701.433.5500

Casselton

Casselton City Hall - 701.347.4861

Valley City

Valley City Police Dept. - 216 2nd Ave NE 701.845.3110