

David Szondy
Address redacted for portfolio

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Dog Dental Treats: Why They're So Important

by

David H. Szondy

Eighty percent of dogs over three-years of age will develop some form of periodontal disease. Though the most obvious sign of this is often bad breath, this is an indication of a more serious condition. Left unchecked, the daily build up of tartar and plaque that naturally occurs on your dog's teeth can result in tooth discolouration, discomfort, gum inflammation, and even toothpaste and abscesses as well as affecting your dog's overall health and well being.

Preventing periodontal disease in your dog is the same as for people; a healthy diet, twice-weekly tooth brushing with toothpaste made specially for dogs, and regular check-ups with a health care professional. Dogs are chewing animals and as part of this health regime, selecting the right dog treats can play an important role in promoting healthy teeth and gums. Most reward treats, because they are too soft and loaded with empty calories, do nothing for your dog's teeth and can even promote decay. Hard biscuits, on the other hand, can help scrape away plaque and food particles from between teeth as well as naturally exercising the jaw and providing your dog with chewing satisfaction. Special dental treats do this job more thoroughly thanks to special abrasives and often include ingredients such as cinnamon or baking soda to freshen your dog's breath. Hard-pressed rawhide treats chosen to match your dog's size and chewing habits can also help with cleaning as well as providing your dog with a thorough gum massage.