

Rot or not?



You all know you need to brush your own teeth at least twice a day, but how much do you know about looking after your pet's teeth?



Quick quiz!

Which of these are true or false?

1. You can buy special fish-flavoured toothpaste for cats.
True/False
2. Most dogs and cats over 2 years of age suffer from some dental disease.
True/False
3. There are specially designed foods, toys and chews that help to keep teeth clean.
True/False
4. Cats and dogs like the frothiness and flavour of human toothpaste.
True/False
5. Teeth of small furry pets keep growing and growing.
True/False
6. Small breeds of dog are less likely to suffer from gum disease.
True/False

Special toothbrushes and toothpastes are available for dogs and cats. Your vet can give advice on how to clean your pet's teeth. It should be a slow, gradual process and you should start when they are puppies and kittens to get them used to having someone handle their mouth. Remember that teeth can be very sharp and dangerous, so always ask an adult to do this for you.



To see PDSA vet Alice showing you how to clean your pet's teeth, visit www.youngpdsa.org.uk/petcasts

How did you do?

1. True! You can buy fish flavoured toothpaste for cats and chicken flavour for dogs.
 2. True! 85% of cats and dogs over the age of 2 suffer from some dental disease, so it is really important to look after their teeth.
 3. True! You can buy many foods and toys to help keep teeth and gums healthy.
 4. False! Never use human toothpaste to clean your pet's teeth. It will get too frothy and they will hate the taste.
 5. True! Rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils and rats have front teeth that grow continuously, so it is important they eat the correct foods to wear their teeth down.
 6. False! Small breeds are more likely to suffer from gum disease as they tend to live longer and have the same number of teeth crowded into a smaller jaw.

To download a leaflet on pet dental care visit: www.pdsa.org.uk/petcareleaflets

