

Dental Health for Dogs and Cats

Raw bones are nature's toothbrush for our carnivorous pet animals. Dogs and cats who chew raw meaty bones at least four days a week have clean white teeth and healthy gums saving the need for an anaesthetic and intensive treatment to perform a scale and clean or removal of teeth later in life.

Cooked bone is not suitable as it is not digestible and can cause problems such as damage and even puncture the intestinal tract. Any raw bone that is a suitable size for your animal to have a good chew at (ie get its teeth into!) is safe.



Raw chicken necks or raw white bait fish for cats and toy breed dogs are usually about the right size, and raw chicken wings, raw lamb shanks, or raw chicken frames are good for medium to large dogs. Observe your pet chewing to make sure you have picked a suitable bone. If they are not used to chewing bones, introduce them gradually over about a month so your pet can learn how to digest its new real food diet that nature intended.

Dental infection: If the head is very hot and pain comes on suddenly give **Belladonna**. If the breath is very bad and there is excessive salivation **Mercurius**. If there is obvious pus **Hepar sulph** may hasten the process, followed by **Silica** to bring resolution.

Dental surgery or trauma: Give **Arnica** and **Hypericum** to help with the healing and a dose or two of **Phosphorus** to help clear the effects of anaesthetic.

Gum disease: **Mercurius** a few times a day if accompanied by a coated tongue, excessive saliva and foul breath. In the case of bad breath add **Carbo veg** daily to aid digestion.

Puppies: When your pup is teething and going through a whiny, restless stage give **Calc phos** to support rapid growth, slow teething, poor appetite and calcium metabolism in baby animals. Grumpy, spiteful animals who bite siblings and owners during teething need **Chamomilla**. They whine and squeal and are capricious, wanting to be picked up, put down and carried around.

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