

DOES DRY FOOD REALLY CLEAN YOUR PET'S TEETH

You have probably seen the commercials for "tartar control" foods and treats. There are also expensive specialty foods out there claiming to clean the teeth. Is this really true?

Generally, no. Dry food breaks down into a starchy substance that, in fact, clings to the teeth and can cause plaque build-up and tartar.

What cleans your pet's teeth are brushing the teeth (start when they are puppies or kittens and get them used to it), enzymes in food and supplements, and friction / abrasion from chewing certain foods.

Enzymes in raw meat help to keep the teeth clean by preventing tartar build-up. Also, fresh fruits and vegetables will help. A home prepared diet containing raw meat and vegetables, or a ready made product with organic meat is the closest option to your pet's natural diet.

Have you noticed the clean teeth on wild animals? Chewing on raw bones provides friction that helps to remove plaque and tartar in wild animals as well as in our domesticated pets. Never give your pet cooked bones because they are brittle and splinter, but raw bones that are appropriate to the size of your dog or cat are safe. Some cats enjoy chewing on a raw chicken wing.

There are special toothpastes and sprays that help to clean teeth, liquids that can be added to your pet's water and various other supplements (probiotics, etc.), but the first building block to good health in your pet's body and teeth is good nutrition.

Come in and talk to us and we can help you choose the products that are right for your pet.

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